FRIDAY
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BENGALURU
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Govt. out of ideas on economy, says Cong.

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Should NEET-UG be decentralised?

Cancellation of exam has exposed deep cracks in the system

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Clinical Titans send Super Kings packing

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NEARBY

Karnataka on BJP high command's radar

BENGALURU
After the victory in West Bengal, the BJP high command appears to be shifting its focus to Karnataka. This is indicated in the maiden visit of the party's national president Nitin Nabin, who will arrive in the city on May 23. » PAGE 10

Rebate for khata conversion hits civic budgets

BENGALURU
The 60% rebate in the fees for the conversion of B-Khata to A-Khatahas upset the Budget Estimates of the five corporations presented only over a month ago. » PAGE 6

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Ebola crisis: India-Africa Delhi summit postponed

Decision taken after consultations regarding the evolving health situation; new dates for summit will be finalised in due course, says MEA; the last such summit was held over a decade ago in 2015

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The Ebola public health emergency in Africa cast its shadow on India's diplomatic calendar on Thursday, with the Ministry of External Affairs and the African Union announcing the postponement of the India-Africa Forum Summit-IV that was scheduled to take place here from May 28 to 31.

In a joint statement, the MEA and the AU hinted at the Ebola crisis, saying that the decision was taken in view of the "evolving health situation in parts of Africa". The last such summit was held over a decade ago, and had also been postponed by a year due to an Ebola outbreak.

Health concern: India has pledged to help governments of African nations to deal with the Ebola crisis. AP

Consultations were held between the Indian government and the Chairperson of the African Union and the African Union Commission regarding the "emerging public health situation on the continent", the MEA and the AU said in their statement. "Following these consultations, the two sides agreed that it would be advisable to convene the Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit at a later date," they added. It said that new dates would be finalised later.

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Big cat meet in capital too put on hold

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In the wake of concerns over the Ebola virus, India has postponed the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit that was scheduled in New Delhi on June 1.

The First IBCA Summit was scheduled in conjunction with the Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit as several African countries host big cats. "New dates for the Summit will be announced in due course following consultations," a statement noted.

State government mulls legal action over SIR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government is mulling over legal action over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) being conducted by the Election Commission of India in the State from June 20, even as the Congress is likely to hold a brainstorming session involving its leaders on May 24. Following this, the government is expected to spell out its specific plans.

Sources said that the Congress had called all its legislators, former legislators, defeated candidates, leaders and heads of frontal organisations for a meeting at a resort near Bengaluru where the SIR would be discussed in detail.

Among those participating in the sessions include Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Congress general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala, the sources said.

H.K. Patil

Govt. stance

Meanwhile, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil told pressperson in his post-Cabinet briefing that the government would spell out its plan in four or five days.

"The Cabinet discussed SIR in detail and legal options that are open. The Election Commission has immunity. We discussed whether we can take the case to Supreme Court and request the apex court to get the final voters' list. Several other points on SIR, including some of those in the public domain already, were discussed," he said.

The Bengal example

Stating that the SIR pertained to the right of voting of the citizens, the Law Minister said, "In the light of 27 lakh voters deleted in West Bengal, and incidents reported in other States, no citizen in Karnataka should lose the right to vote for no reasons, in deliberate action and unnecessarily. In the name of SIR, a lot of opaque situations were created and there was no transparency. In Bihar, tribunals were established but they did not sit. Judges also resigned. All efforts would be made here to ensure that the right of the citizens are not trampled upon."

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State to go ahead with CET counselling first

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the wake of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-2026) paper leak fiasco, the Karnataka government has decided to conduct the Common Entrance Test (CET) counselling first for engineering and others related courses this year. Earlier CET and NEET counselling were conducted simultaneously.

This year, counselling will be held first for eight courses, including engineering, based on the CET rank, and counselling for medical, dental and AYUSH courses will be held later based on the NEET ranking later.

In addition, it was also decided to allow candidates of all courses, including medical and engineering, to upgrade up to the third round of CET counselling, in the meeting held with the private professional college managements, and officials of the Higher Education and Medical Education Departments, headed by Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar on Thursday.

Candidates of all courses, including medical and engineering, wil be allowed to upgrade up to the third round of CET counselling.

Dr. Sudhakar told *The Hindu*, "This time, the NEET will be held on June 21 and the results are likely to be declared by the end of July. Then, the Medical Counselling Committee will announce the NEET counselling schedule. It will not be possible to conduct NEET and CET counselling simultaneously."

Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra too are conducting counselling earlier for engineering and other professional courses, he added.

Earlier, even when CET and NEET counselling were conducted simultaneously, students were allowed to upgrade their courses till the second round, he said.

However, it takes at least 30 to 40 days to complete one round of counselling. Therefore, we have decided to allow upgradation till the third round for candidates of all courses, including medical, dental, AYUSH and engineering. For example, if a candidate who wanted a medical seat gets admitted to engineering in a good college in CET counselling and then gets a medical seat in NEET counselling, then this candidate and the engineering candidates for this seat that remains vacant will also be allowed to be upgraded," he added.

NEET FIASCO

CONTINUED ON
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Crude oil imports dip, but bill goes up

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

The volume of India's crude oil imports fell by 4.3% in April, the second month after the start of the West Asia conflict, while the value of imports soared by about 50% over the comparable period last year, government data showed.

The figures are an indication of the price pressure on crude oil and natural gas due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Notably, as per the latest data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, the volume of imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) declined by nearly 30% in April, though domestic net production of natural gas fell by 4.2% during the month. This was, however, due to lower consumption.

Overall, the net import bill for oil and gas, which is inclusive of certain deductions from India's export of petroleum products, grew by about 23% to $13.9 billion in April. The data show that India imported 20.1 million tonnes (mt) of crude oil in April, compared with 21 mt in the comparable period last year. However, oil-marketing companies paid $16.3 billion for their imports, as against the $10.7 billion they had paid in the corresponding month last year.

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SC provides clarity on holding sedition trials

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The court says sedition trials can be held if the accused has no objection

Four years after putting on hold trials in sedition cases in courts across the country, the Supreme Court on Thursday said that they could proceed with trials and appeals involving the offence of sedition under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code if the accused had no objection.

The clarification was issued by a Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi while hearing a plea filed by a man who has been in jail for 17 years in a case involving sedition charges.

"The petitioner's grievance is that he has no objection if his criminal appeal is heard in its entirety, including with respect to the charge under Section 124A. We clarify... that wherever the accused has no objection to the continuation of the trial, appeal or any other proceeding in which he has been charge-sheeted under Section 124A IPC, there shall be no impediment for courts to decide such matters on merits and in accordance with law," it said.

CONTINUED ON
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It's all been going downhill for Rishabh Pant

The southpaw appears to be a pale shadow of the player who once lit up the world stage; he has been relieved of vice-captaincy duties in Tests, dropped from India's ODI set-up and is nowhere close to making the T20I squad

Sliding Super Giant: The 19th edition of the IPL has been a disappointing one for Pant, both as batter and captain.
SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP & R.V. MOORTHY

R. Kaushik

Earlier this week, when Ajit Agarkar's selection panel met to pick the Indian teams for the one-off Test and three One-Day Internationals against Afghanistan next month, a third different vice-captain for the longest format in as many home series was installed.

Ravindra Jadeja was Shubman Gill's deputy for the two-Test series against West Indies in October, a development stemming only because Rishabh Pant was unavailable, recovering as he was from a broken foot sustained in Manchester in July. Pant, who was the vice-captain in England, returned to that role - conferred on him for the first time before the England tour as India embarked on a new adventure in Test cricket - for the South Africa showdown and led the country in Guwahati when Gill was ruled out with a neck injury.

It wasn't the most auspicious of captaincy debuts for the wicketkeeper-batter, who oversaw India's heaviest defeat by runs (408) ever in the history of the five-day game. Pant himself had a match to forget as batter, dismissed for 7 and 13, the former to an ill-advised hoick against Marco Jansen in the second over after lunch on day three when his side was already on the ropes, at 105 for four in response to the visitors' 489.

Now, it would appear as if Pant won't be leading the country in a Test for a while to come after being stripped of his vice-captaincy, which has been conferred on K.L. Rahul. Perhaps in a tacit, roundabout, face-saving way, Agarkar and his band of wise men have acknowledged without saying it in as many words that they made a mistake by overlooking Rahul's leadership credentials when they decided to move on from the Rohit Sharma era. Rahul is already an all-format international captain, is in his 12th year at the highest level and has plenty of top-flight cricket left in him, but it is learnt that when the selectors met ahead of the England tour to identify the next leadership group, they didn't even so much as give the Karnataka batter a thought.

Anyway, we digress. Where does this latest development leave Pant? On the same day when he was divested of the vice-captaincy, the 28-year-old was also dumped from the 50-over squad to take on the Afghans. He is already superfluous to India's T20I plans, not having played in that variant since July 2024; he hasn't also figured in a 50-over international since August 2024, though he appeared to be back in favour when he was picked in the squad to play New Zealand at home this January before picking up an abdominal injury at nets before the first match which ruled him out of the entire series.

It's been a dismal year thus far for Pant. The abdominal injury was perhaps an indication of what was in store, maybe a portent of things to come

Pant has been supplanted as the second wicketkeeper in the ODI squad by Ishan Kishan, whose international comeback is gathering pace since his return to the national side ahead of the T20 World Cup earlier this year. It means the Lucknow Super Giants captain, the highest paid player in IPL history, has been pigeonholed for the time being as only a Test player, a remarkable turnaround in perception given that he made his T20I debut a good year and a half before first donning the Test cap.

It's been a dismal year thus far for Pant. The abdominal injury was perhaps an indication of what was in store, maybe a portent of things to come, because this has been a singularly unedifying IPL campaign for Pant, both as batter and captain. In 12 innings, the still exciting left-hander has managed just 286 runs at a strike-rate of 140.19, his only half-century (68 n.o.) coming very early in the season in a winning cause against Chennai Super Kings.

He has looked laboured, out of sync and more than a little confused about what approach to embrace. Neither all-out aggression nor sporadic, maybe half-hearted, attempts at innings-building have paid off, and Pant has given the impression of having left the free spirit he has been for over a decade back in the changing room.

Under his watch, LSG have notched up just four wins from 13 outings, the sum of their parts not contributing to the larger whole. While the bowling has been reasonably up to scratch, the big batting boys didn't come to the party until it was too late, until their fate had been sealed. Some of the decision-making has been addled and beyond belief, not least the call to send Nicholas Pooran to face Sunil Narine in the Super Over, for two reasons. One, Pooran doesn't have the most encouraging head-to-head against the spin wizard. Two, the left-hander was in abysmal form at the time (only slightly better now) and one got the impression that Pooran for the Super Over was more out of hope and optimism than any great sense of conviction.

There is no denying the fact that these are troubled times for Pant, who no longer commands the same excitement quotient as he once did. Upstaged by the likes of Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Priyansh Arya and Abhishek Sharma, among others, Pant suddenly doesn't enjoy the same leeway he once was accorded when he did entertainingly daft things at the batting crease. Of course, he is no longer an emerging star; he is in his tenth year as an India player, boasts more than 150 international appearances and a T20 World Cup winner's medal and, at the risk of being repetitive, has already captained the nation.

Enormous expectations

That being said, the expectations on him continue to be enormous. He has to both entertain and deliver, a victim of the image people have of him rather than an image he has carefully cultivated. When he is at the batting crease, fans believe the falling scoop and the charge-and-clatter against the faster bowlers are *de rigueur*, but if he perishes while playing those very shots, he is held up as irresponsible and unwilling to play the situation. It's a difficult cross to bear, it's bound to impact one's psyche. It's at that crossroads that Pant now finds himself, with plenty of cricket still in him but apprehensive if he will get the right platforms to showcase his unquestioned brilliance.

The best of Pant was on view in England last summer, in the three-and-a-half Tests in which he featured. Centuries in both innings in Leeds (even if in a losing cause) and three further scores of more than 50 in his next five knocks, some produced with typical chutzpah and others in a more studied manner, embellished his standing as one of the premier Test wicketkeeper-batters of his generation, at the very least. The spunk, spirit, bravery and courage he showed in coming back to bat after breaking his foot and making 54 in the first innings of the Old Trafford Test was in keeping with his reputation of putting mind over matter. Popular with the opposition fans as well as with his opponents, Pant was the talk of England even though his captain and good friend amassed a stunning 754 runs and even though it was in his absence that India pulled off a magnificent series-levelling win at the Oval in early August.

Less than 10 months on, Pant has been put on tenuous notice even in Test cricket, potentially. Agarkar was quick to dismiss suggestions that there was no threat to his place in the longer format scheme of things, but if there is one thing we have learnt over the years, it is to not take these utterances at face value. "We want him (Pant) to become the best Test player that he has always been," the former India all-rounder remarked. "I don't think there is any concern with his spot in the Test team. I think he is one of our main batters in that line-up. (He) had a really good tour of England till he got injured. He has always been very good in Test cricket."

New Chandigarh will mark Pant's 50th Test appearance, a milestone moment if there ever was one. Don't be surprised if it is also a stepping stone

That, Pant certainly has been. Since making 114 in his third appearance, at the Oval in September 2018, he has relished the challenge of the red ball, especially overseas. Six of his eight centuries have come away from home, and the showman with the sense of occasion in him surfaced in Chennai in September 2024 when, in his first Test in 22 months - many of them spent recuperation from a horror road accident in December 2022 - he smashed an extraordinary 109 in the second innings against Bangladesh. Despite scoring at 74.24 per 100 balls, he averages 42.91 from 49 matches, and his pre-eminence in the batting line-up has been recognised with a permanent No. 5 slot, which is often the bridge between the accomplished top order and the somewhat slightly less skilled lower half.

Without being uncharitable, it must be said that captaincy doesn't seem to sit comfortably on Pant's sturdy shoulders, captaincy not to be confused with leadership. Pant is inherently instinctive, relying primarily on gut-feel and intuition. He will remain a leader forever, especially from behind the stumps when he has the best view of the ground and is ideally placed to read angles and therefore dictate field placements. But the jury will continue to be out on whether he is cut out for captaincy, *per se*. One has repeatedly got the impression that Pant doesn't entirely relish the straitjacket that accompanies the suffix of (captain), an impression that has been echoed by others who have both played for and skippered the team in Test cricket.

A footsoldier now

Pant has little control over the off-field developments that have made him a footsoldier (from deputy general not long back) all over again in Test cricket. He will also obviously be disappointed at being cast out of the 50-over line-up, but again, what can he do about it? If there is one thing he has showcased aplenty, especially in the last three and a half years, it is resilience, inner strength and a burning desire to be true and honest to himself. He knows that starting next fortnight, there are 10 Tests ahead of India between June and March, 10 opportunities for him to invoke the spirit of Pant and do the Pant things that are so unique to him. If that leads to other doors opening, so be it.

New Chandigarh will mark Pant's 50th Test appearance, a milestone moment if there ever was one. Don't be surprised if it is also a stepping stone, a springboard to a glorious second coming. After all, with Pant, there are no surprises anymore. Or are there?

THE GIST

- There is no denying the fact that these are troubled times for Pant, who no longer commands the same excitement quotient as he once did
- On the same day when he was divested of the Test vice-captaincy, he was also dumped from the 50-over squad for the Afghanistan series
- It must be said that captaincy doesn't seem to sit comfortably on Pant's sturdy shoulders, captaincy not to be confused with leadership

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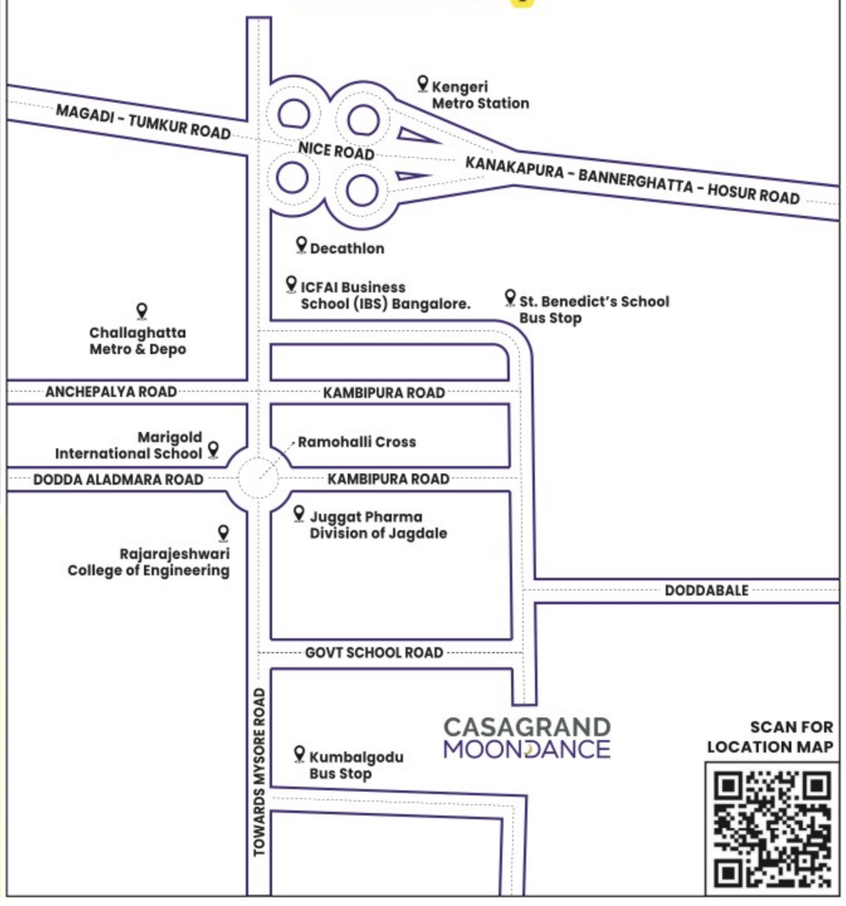

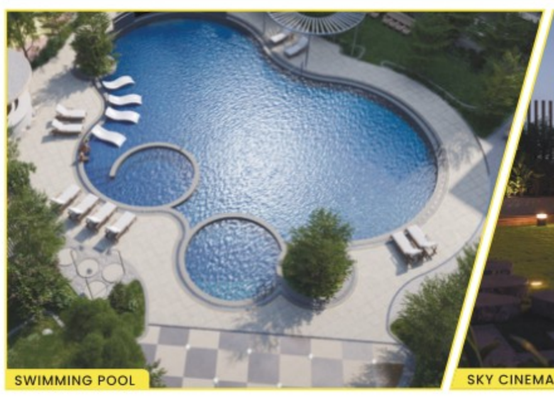
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‘Steady rise in thunderstorms and lightning activity in city’

The probability of more severe localised thunderstorms is expected to rise in the coming years, says the study

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The study reveals that both thunderstorms and lightning events in Bengaluru exhibited a significant increasing trend, rising annually by 3.41% and 3.3%, respectively. FILE PHOTO

On April 29 Bengaluru received heavy downpour coupled with thunderstorms and hailstorms. The intensity was so heavy that the Bengaluru city station recorded 78 mm rainfall within a duration of about 30 minutes.

A study conducted by the scientists and researchers from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Bangalore University, and Andhra University, published in the Current World Environment Journal, has found that the heavy rainfall and thunderstorms like the one which occurred on April 29 was not a one off incident but a recurring one.

The study, “Thunderstorms and their Influence on Meteorology and Atmospheric Composition over Southern Peninsular”, has revealed that Bengaluru is experiencing a significant, statistically verified increase in both thunderstorm and lightning activities. Scientists led by IMD Scientist C.S. Patil, who is the lead author of the study, using a 13-year dataset spanning from 2011 to 2023, have found that Bengaluru records an average of 41 thunderstorm days and 157 lightning strikes each year.

The study revealed that both thunderstorms and lightning events in Bengaluru exhibited a significant increasing trend, rising annually by 3.41% and 3.3%, respectively.

It further said that Bengaluru’s localised data reveals a unique regional microclimate trajectory as over the 13-year window the city has experienced a steady increase in cumulative rainfall (rising by 1.44 mm per year), relative humidity (up 0.74% per year), while the local surface temperatures showed a slight decline of 0.06°C per year.

According to the study, the amalgamation of high local heat during daytime hours and an abundant moisture supply from moving monsoonal systems creates a perfect thermodynamic recipe to trigger severe storm convection. “Because heat and humidity are foundational building blocks for storm development, the probability of more severe localised thunderstorms is expected to rise in the coming years,” the scientists said.

They also mapped exactly when the thunderstorm and lightning activities strike the city. “Diurnally, thunderstorms follow a sharp unimodal curve : they are incredibly rare during morning and forenoon hours, begin escalating rapidly after 3 p.m. due to daytime solar heating of the land surface, and reach their absolute peak in the late evening between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.,” they said.

The study revealed that on an annual scale, the city experiences a dual-peak pattern. “The first and largest spike occurs during the pre-monsoon month of May, averaging 12 thunderstorm days, driven by intense thermal instability and oceanic depressions. A secondary, weaker peak manifests during the post-monsoon transition in September and October as the monsoon trough retreats southward,” they said.

Corporations begin setting up disaster response teams as monsoon nears

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Trees in Cubbon Park were damaged in recent rains that lashed Bengaluru. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

With the monsoon season approaching, all five corporations are being equipped with rapid response teams, regular night teams, crane teams, and regular canopy management teams to ensure minimal rain-related damage and to strengthen emergency response to citizen complaints.

According to documents accessed by *The Hindu*, the city will utilise the services of 30 regular tree canopy management teams, 25 rapid response teams, 11 regular night teams, and 18 crane teams. Each team will comprise eight individuals. In addition, the corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) have identified 13 temporary timber depots. Further, the corporations are also procuring the required machinery to deal with debris-related situations.

At present, there are 27 regular tree canopy management teams, one rapid response team, and two regular night teams.

The move comes in the wake of recent rains in the city that caused substantial destruction, including the uprooting of 515 trees and the snapping of over 1,500 branches. The shortage of manpower became evident during the rains, as it took nearly a week for the corporations to clear the damage.

According to a GBA source, the delay in clearing the damage occurred despite the involvement of multiple teams, including the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP).

“Many traffic police stations have tree-cutting machines and other safety gear. Wherever necessary, the BTP also engaged in cutting fallen branches, but this was limited to places where the disruption was substantial and required immediate intervention,” the source said.

In addition, the GBA had to rope in tree-cutting and management teams from different districts.

“The tree-cutting teams had even worked overnight to clear the debris last time. The problem was that there were no trained personnel to handle tree-cutting, so we had to bring in teams from different districts. Otherwise, we would have needed a few more days to clear the debris,” he said. According to officials, tenders for setting up teams for management have been floated, and technical bids have also been received. Technical scrutiny is currently under way to finalise the bids. Once the process is completed, tree canopy management teams will begin work to clear dangerous trees and branches.

Meanwhile, the existing tree management teams are identifying dangerous trees and branches across the city, and their report will be reviewed by the forest cell before such trees are cleared. So far, the forest cell has cleared 1,200 trees that were vulnerable to strong winds and rain, hollow ones, or diseased. The corporations are also identifying places to set up a dedicated control room in their jurisdictions to deal with flooding complaints.

Heavy rain, gusty winds disrupt metro services, trigger flooding, outages across Bengaluru city

A tree that fell on a car in Rajajinagar on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Moderate to heavy rain accompanied by gusty winds lashed parts of Bengaluru on Thursday, leading to power outages, flooding and delays in metro services across parts of the city.

“Due to heavy rain and storm conditions, metro services across all lines are experiencing delays,” Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) said following the rains.

Metro services on Thursday evening faced brief disruption on the Purple Line (Challaghatta-Whitefield (Kadugodi) after small metal sheets were blown onto the tracks due to heavy rain and strong winds.

According to officials, the incident led to delays of around 15-20 minutes between 6.45 pm and 7.45 pm. Speaking to The Hindu, BMRCL Chief Public Relations Officer B.L. Yeshwanth Chavan said a small metal object from a nearby building fell on the track amid adverse weather conditions, affecting train movement temporarily. He clarified that there were no major safety concerns or prolonged disruptions.

However, the delay triggered commuter complaints on social media with many reporting overcrowding at stations and longer waiting times across the corridor. Another official said that more than one such incident may have occurred, with reports of metal sheets falling between Baiyappanahalli and Benniganahalli stations, and a separate instance near Hoodi station.

In a post on X at 6.56 pm, BMRCL said that services across routes were affected due to heavy winds and rain, adding that passenger safety remained the top priority. While several areas did not receive rainfall and only experienced heavy winds, parts of the city that witnessed showers reported flooding and traffic disruptions. As per the city traffic police, treefall incidents leading to slow-moving traffic were reported near Swami Vivekananda Road Metro Station towards CMH Hospital, and on the stretch from the Banaswadi-Horamavu underpass towards Kalyan Nagar.

Flooding was reported on multiple stretches, including Windsor Manor Bridge towards Palace Cross, both sides of Mysuru Road towards Veterinary Junction, Brigade Road towards Opera Junction, Majestic and Lulu Mall towards Khode Junction, Anil Kumble Circle towards Queens Junction, Pai Layout towards the city, Garudacharpalya towards the city, Sultanpet towards Sultanpet Cross, Lalbagh East Gate towards Lalbagh Main Gate, and SJP Road towards Town Hall. Officials from Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) said several areas experienced power cuts due to minor infrastructure damage caused by strong winds, but the utility is yet to estimate the damage.

Thyroid issues emerging as hidden cause of infertility, say specialists

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Doctors say thyroid dysfunction is often overlooked because of its vague symptoms. GETTY IMAGES

A growing number of urban women struggling with infertility, irregular menstrual cycles, failed conception attempts, and recurrent miscarriages may be, without being aware, suffering from thyroid disorders, fertility specialists in Bengaluru have warned.

Doctors said thyroid dysfunction is often overlooked because of its vague symptoms, but is increasingly being linked to reproductive health complications among women in their late 20s and 30s, particularly in metropolitan cities where stress, poor sleep, unhealthy diets and sedentary lifestyles are common.

Vidya V. Bhat, gynaecologist, IVF specialist and Medical Director of Radhakrishna Multispeciality Hospital, said thyroid-related fertility problems are being seen more frequently in clinical practice.

She noted that symptoms such as fatigue, unexplained weight gain or loss, hair fall, anxiety, mood swings, irregular periods and poor sleep are often mistaken for stress-related problems among working women, delaying diagnosis and treatment.

Among urban poor

N. Venkatesh, National Board of Examination (NBE) professor and head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the State-run Jayanagar General Hospital, said thyroid disorders are increasingly being detected even among urban poor women visiting government hospitals, though many cases initially go undiagnosed.

He stressed that thyroid testing is essential for women presenting with fertility or menstrual problems. Around 20 of the nearly 120 women attending the OBG outpatient department daily at Jayanagar General Hospital seek treatment related to fertility concerns and often require thyroid evaluation or specialised referrals.

Dr. Venkatesh pointed out that advanced thyroid-related fertility investigations are unavailable in many government hospitals and primary health centres, forcing economically vulnerable patients to seek referrals to tertiary care institutions such as Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute.

Doctors explained that thyroid hormones play a key role in follicular development, ovulation and preparing the uterus for implantation. Both hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism can interfere with fertility by disrupting ovulation, affecting egg quality, delaying implantation and increasing pregnancy risks. Anupama Ashok, Senior Consultant and Fertility Expert at Motherhood Fertility and IVF, Hebbal, said, “The disruption can lead to ovulation problems, irregular menstrual cycles, implantation failure and difficulty maintaining pregnancy, resulting in early miscarriages.”

Arunima Haldar, consultant in IVF and Reproductive Medicine at Manipal Hospital Whitefield and Varthur, said silent thyroid disorders can remain undetected and present only as infertility or recurrent miscarriage.

Timely diagnosis, treatment, monitoring and lifestyle modifications can help many women conceive naturally and have healthy pregnancies. They are now advocating routine thyroid screening during fertility evaluations and preconception counselling.

T.N. resident found dead in city lodge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 38-year-old man was found dead under mysterious circumstances in a private lodge at Madiwala in Bengaluru, raising suspicion of a possible drug overdose or health-related complication.

The deceased has been identified as Madhu, a resident of Puliyampatti in Tamil Nadu. According to the police, the private lodge is located at Maruti Nagar under the limits of Madiwala Police Station. The police said a man, identified as Fajiulla Khan, had booked a room in the lodge. Madhu had reportedly entered the lodge and stayed in the same room without making an entry in the guest register.

On May 20, Madhu was allegedly found lying motionless on the bed inside the room. Lodge staff alerted the police. Fajiulla Khan is absconding, police sources said.

The post-mortem examination indicated that Madhu died of cardiac arrest and that he had a pre-existing heart condition. He checked into the hotel room – booked by his friend who is presently on the run – two weeks ago, a police officer said

Minor girl who tried to end life rescued

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru police saved a 16-year-old girl who allegedly attempted to end her life by threatening to jump from the fifth floor of an apartment building in NRI Layout under the limits of the Ramamurthy Nagar Police Station on Thursday.

The teenager reportedly climbed onto the terrace of the five-storeyed apartment building and attempted to jump.

The incident is suspected to have stemmed from ongoing family disputes. Officials said the family had approached the police nearly two months ago, alleging that the girl was frequently leaving home and remaining untraceable for two to three days at a stretch. Investigators suspect repeated restrictions imposed by the family and domestic disagreements may have pushed her to take the extreme step.

The police carefully negotiated with the teenager and safely rescued her after nearly an hour-long operation.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN at 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.)

Admissions for IIIT-B open

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B) has opened applications for its B.Tech and five-year Integrated M.Tech programmes for the academic year 2026-27. Admissions to all programmes will be through a common application process, and candidates are not required to apply separately for individual courses. The institute clarified that admissions are not conducted through Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JoSAA). Applications can be submitted through the official admissions portal: https://admissions.iiitb.net/

For pregnant women in Chennai's tenements, summer offers no escape

Living in densely packed houses with little to no green cover, these women spend most days managing fatigue and the heat; studies have found that pregnant women exposed to high temperatures face significantly higher risks of miscarriage, preterm birth, low birthweight and intrauterine growth restriction

Geetha Srimathi

The queue outside the Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Perumbakkam, a neighbourhood on the southern outskirts of Chennai, begins forming early, before the sun climbs fully overhead and the concrete starts radiating heat. By 10.30 a.m., pregnant women occupy most of the verandah – clutching medical files and water bottles that are already warm.

Ceiling fans push thick air around the room but offer little relief. Outside the PHC, row after row of grey tenements built by the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board stand packed tightly together, their numbered blocks stretching into the distance, a maze of concrete. There are few trees, barely any open ground, and little room for air to move. Twenty-four-year-old Priya has been here since morning. Five months pregnant with her second child, she shifts uncomfortably in her seat while keeping one eye on her four-year-old son. She says the worst part of summer is not the daytime heat but the nights. "From midnight till almost 4 a.m., I don't sleep properly," she says. "It's too stuffy inside our house."

In the single-room apartment she shares with her family, the heat settles into the walls and lingers long after sunset. Sweat leaves rashes and pale patches across her hands and face. Doctors at the PHC tell her she is anaemic and underweight, and repeatedly advise her to drink more water, eat iron-rich foods and rest. But rest is difficult to come by. Sleep comes in fragments between heat, work and household responsibilities.

Across Chennai's resettlement colonies such as Perumbakkam and Ezhil Nagar, families relocated from informal settlements into public housing now live in dense clusters of low-cost apartment blocks built by the State government.

Beating the heat: A policy document from the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board calls for climate-resilient and people-centric housing with better ventilation, social amenities, mixed-use planning and improved green cover. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Trapped heat

In many buildings, narrow staircases trap heat through the day, corridors remain dim even at noon, and windows open into walls of neighbouring blocks rather than open spaces. In some apartments, a weak cross-breeze reaches the upper floors, but in many others the air feels stagnant. The absence of green cover is striking. Concrete dominates the landscape – concrete roads, terraces and courtyards absorbing and radiating heat through the day and into the night.

Thirty-one-year-old Anandhi, pregnant with her fourth child, has recently stopped working at a canteen in an IT company because of exhaustion and health complications. Diabetic and dependent on insulin injections during pregnancy, she spends most days trying to manage fatigue, childcare and the heat.

"The doctor tells me to drink enough water and eat foods with more water content," she says. But hydration is a challenge: most residents in the TNUHDB tenements rely on purchased drinking water cans, and many say they struggle to afford additional cans during the summer months, even as rising temperatures increase household water consumption and strain already tight budgets.

Jaishree Gajaraj, head of the department and senior consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology at Varam Women's Superspeciality Centre, MGM Healthcare Chennai, says pregnancy naturally increases the body's metabolic rate, which in turn raises sweating and the risk of dehydration during hot weather. "When we talk about dehydration, we often think only about water loss, but the body also loses electrolytes," she says, adding that fluids such as buttermilk, citrus fruits and traditional drinks with salt content can help replenish them.

The body usually regulates its core temperature despite external heat or cold, says Dr. Gajaraj, but prolonged exposure to extreme temperatures can overwhelm this mechanism. "When the body is unable to maintain its normal core temperature, that is when problems arise," she says.

A 2024 study published in the journal *BJOG* by researchers from Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, Chennai found that pregnant women exposed to high temperatures faced significantly higher risks of miscarriage, preterm birth, low birthweight and intrauterine growth restriction. The study followed 800 pregnant women in Tamil Nadu between 2017 and 2022 and found that nearly half were exposed to unsafe heat levels.

Vidhya Venugopal, who led the study, says the risks are particularly severe for women living in informal settlements and overcrowded housing. For women already vulnerable because of anaemia, undernutrition, poor housing and demanding work, extreme heat compounds existing risks. "These women cannot stop working when temperatures peak because losing even a day's wages is not an option," Prof. Venugopal says. "After spending hours in dangerous heat, they return to homes that trap warmth and allow no recovery. Their bodies never get the chance to recuperate."

For women without permanent housing, the realities are harsher still. Along the crowded stretch of Rattan Bazaar in north Chennai, 27-year-old Abirami sits beneath a tree with her three children beside her, arranging flowers for sale. The patch of shade beneath the branches is temporary; as the sun shifts, so does the family. She is waiting for allotment of a TNUHDB house. Until then, pavements and patches of shade are all she has.

Centre's guidelines

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has directed States and Union Territories to ensure regular supply of drinking water, oral rehydration solutions and cooling facilities such as fans and ventilation systems in shelters under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission. However, there is limited awareness about these shelters and many people living on the streets remain reluctant to move into them because of concerns around safety, poor accessibility, and the fear of being separated from family members.

Tamil Nadu's own policy documents recognise heat as a public health threat. The State Planning Commission, in its Heat Mitigation Strategy report, identifies pregnant women among the groups most vulnerable to extreme temperatures. The report notes that nearly 74% of the State's population is exposed to temperatures exceeding 35 degrees Celsius and warns that prolonged heat exposure can worsen cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses while posing serious risks to pregnant women, children and the elderly.

Urban planners and housing activists argue that the design of many resettlement colonies worsens heat stress. A policy document by the TNUHDB itself acknowledges that public housing in the State has historically prioritised cost and efficiency over residents' lived experiences. The document calls for climate-resilient and people-centric housing with better ventilation, social amenities, mixed-use planning and improved green cover.

Yet implementing such ideas remains difficult. Vanessa Peter, founder of IRCDUC, says public housing in Tamil Nadu has evolved after years of advocacy. But current housing projects continue to struggle with density and climate resilience.

Financial limitations shape many of these decisions. While the Union government contributes part of the funding for housing schemes, States must bear a substantial portion of the cost, which forces a compromise between affordability and liveability, she adds.

A 2025 advisory by the National Disaster Management Authority recommends identifying and mapping heat-vulnerable settlements and populations; improving access to shaded spaces, cooling centres, drinking water and emergency shelters; promoting affordable cooling solutions such as cool roofs, ventilation, insulation and reflective materials; increasing green cover through trees, urban forests and water-sensitive planning; strengthening heat action plans and early warning systems; and integrating heat resilience into housing schemes and urban planning.

(This story is part of the Asian College of Journalism's Climate Change Media Hub Mentorship Programme.)

(geetha.srimathi@thehindu.co.in)

THE GIST

A 2024 study published in the journal *BJOG* by researchers from Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, Chennai followed 800 pregnant women in Tamil Nadu between 2017 and 2022 and found that nearly half were exposed to unsafe heat levels

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HUMERUS

Experts clarify the link between screen time, autism

Athira Elssa Johnson

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is increasingly being discussed on social media, often alongside claims linking excessive screen time to autism in children. However, neurologists and developmental experts say the science is far more complex.

Sheffali Gulati, paediatric neurologist and former professor at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), said autism cannot be reduced to one trigger alone."Autism is still an enigma. There are strong genetic influences, environmental factors and epigenetic mechanisms all interacting together," she said.

Multiple causes

Experts say autism begins very early in brain development and has a strong hereditary basis. Dr. Gulati noted that studies show concordance rates of 60% to 90% in identical twins, indicating a major genetic contribution. Autism is also associated with several genetic conditions including Fragile X syndrome, Down syndrome, tuberous sclerosis and neurofibromatosis.

Checking in: Autism is a complex, lifelong neurodevelopmental condition primarily rooted in genetics and prenatal brain development. FILE PHOTO

She added that environmental associations being studied include air pollution, pesticide exposure, parental age and certain medications taken during pregnancy. "Screen time is being studied as one environmental factor among many. It should not be sensationalised as the sole cause," she said. Chakkera Priyanka, consultant neurologist, Kauvery Hospital, said current scientific evidence does not support the claim that screens directly cause autism. "What studies have shown is association, not causation," she said. "Children who already have early traits of autism may naturally prefer screens because they are repetitive, predictable and less socially demanding."

She explained that parents of children with developmental concerns may also rely more on screens for calming or regulation, creating what researchers call "reverse causality," where increased screen use may actually be a consequence rather than the cause of developmental differences.

Abhinayaa J., consultant in Developmental Paediatrics at Apollo Children's Hospitals, say excessive screen exposure can still affect children's development, especially during the first few years of life when the brain undergoes rapid growth. "The first thousand days of life are extremely important for brain development," Dr. Gulati said. "This is when neural networks are forming and synapses are being strengthened and pruned."

Recent research has shown children living with autism began using screens earlier than neurotypical children, with significantly higher problematic media-use scores. However, experts stress that these behavioural effects are different from autism itself.

Experts also cautioned parents against extreme reactions such as suddenly eliminating all screen exposure overnight. They said screen habits should instead be reduced gradually while increasing human interaction, play and communication, especially at a time when technology is increasingly being integrated into healthcare, education and developmental therapies for children.

(athira.elssa@thehindu.co.in)

The move has been made to ease travel for UPSC aspirants across the city. FILE PHOTO

UPSC prelims: Namma Metro to begin operations at 6 a.m.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In view of the upcoming UPSC Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination scheduled on May 24, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has announced that Namma Metro train services across Bengaluru will commence one hour earlier than usual to assist candidates and commuters.

According to a media release issued by BMRCL, metro operations on Sunday will begin from 6 a.m. instead of the regular 7 a.m. from all terminal stations across the network. This includes Whitefield (Kadugodi) and Challaghatta stations on the Purple Line, Madavara and Silk Institute stations on the Green Line, and R.V. Road and Bommasandra stations on the Yellow Line.

The move has been made considering the large number of UPSC aspirants expected to travel to various examination centres across the city.

RIT student team wins TECHgium

BENGALURU: A team of three undergraduate students from the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Ramaiah Institute of Technology emerged as winners at the 9th edition of TECHgium, organised by L&T Technology Services at its Mysuru campus. The winning team comprised KR Nandish, Umang Kumar Prasad and Piyush Singh, under the mentorship of Dr. Jyothilakshmi R. Their project, titled "Next Gen Self Charging Hybrid Scooter", focused on sustainable urban mobility by retrofitting a conventional 125cc scooter with a hybrid-electric powertrain.

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The Scheme That Gave Women The Freedom to Travel

The Shakthi Guarantee

A Lifeline for Crores of Women

Over 726 Cr Journeys

According to government data, women passengers have availed over 726 crore free journeys under the 'Shakthi' scheme since its launch. So far, the government has issued tickets worth over ₹18,943 crore and continues to release subsidies to transport corporations on time. To manage the increasing passenger demand, thousands of new buses have been added to transport fleets. To further streamline the scheme and prevent misuse, the government is also moving towards introducing the 'Shakthi Smart Card' for women shortly.

A Model for Other States

Karnataka's 'Shakthi' scheme is not limited to free bus travel alone; by increasing women's mobility, it has instilled renewed confidence among them. The success of Karnataka's model has inspired several other states to implement similar initiatives. Telangana has introduced 'Mahalakshmi', Andhra Pradesh has launched 'Sthree Shakthi', and Kerala too has implemented a similar scheme. West Bengal has also announced a scheme and has moved towards implementation.

Guarantee Varthe

Bengaluru: The 'Shakthi' scheme was the first among the five Guarantee schemes announced by the Government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah after assuming office in the state in 2023. Officially launched on June 11, 2023, the scheme provides free travel in government buses for women and girl students across the state. Over the past three years, this ambitious initiative has brought about a transformative change by ensuring freedom of travel to crores of women across Karnataka.

Women from lower and lower-middle-income backgrounds, including garment workers, civic workers, and daily wage earners, are now saving approximately ₹1,500 to ₹2,000 every month. These savings are being utilised for children's education, household expenses, medicines, and small savings. The scheme has enabled rural girl students to travel to towns and cities for higher education without financial burden. Following the implementation of the scheme, there has also been a significant rise in the number of women devotees visiting major temples and tourist destinations, thereby boosting religious tourism as well.

Statistics

₹18,943 Crore
Amount spent on the Shakthi scheme so far

Over 726 Crore
Total free tickets distributed so far

Women's Empowerment is the Foundation of a Prosperous Karnataka

The 'Shakthi' scheme is not merely a free transport facility; it represents our Government's unwavering commitment towards the dignity, equality, and progress of every woman in the state. Over the last three years, crores of free journeys have enabled women to access education, employment, and healthcare without financial barriers. An empowered woman is the pillar of a strong family, and strong families are the foundation of a prosperous Karnataka. Our Government remains committed to such progressive and inclusive development.

• Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

3 Years of Governance - Announcement of 'Guarantee Habba'

The State Government, which is stepping into the successful fourth year of its people-centric administration, held its three-year achievement convention successfully in Tumakuru on May 19. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced that programmes would be organised throughout the month. Accordingly, the Government has launched programmes under the banner of 'Guarantee Habba', and several campaigns will be conducted across the month.

GUARANTEE HABBA
Stepping into the 4th year

> After an accident left me unable to work, the Government's guarantee schemes became a source of support. Free travel under the Shakthi scheme helped me visit the hospital without worrying about bus fare, bringing much-needed relief to my family.
>
> ○ **Ratnamma**, Bhadravati

> Free travel under the Shakthi scheme has made it easier for me to bring essentials for my tea shop from the market. Earlier, transport costs were a burden, but now the savings have helped me run my tea shop better.
>
> ○ **Seethalakshmi**, Hosanagara

> Worried about my daughter's future, I wanted to start a small clothing business from home, but travel costs made frequent market visits difficult. With free travel under the Shakthi scheme, I can now bring materials for my business without worrying about expenses.
>
> ○ **Shafia**, Shahapur

Independent Travel A New Dimension to Women's Empowerment

Freedom of travel plays a vital role in women's empowerment. It opens access to employment, education, and market opportunities. The Shakthi scheme has not only reduced the financial burden on families but has also doubled women's active participation in Karnataka's socio-economic progress. As our Government steps into its fourth year of governance, we once again reaffirm our commitment towards building a more equal and empowered Karnataka.

• D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

Public Transport on the Path of Progress

The Shakthi scheme has transformed Karnataka's public transport system into a powerful vehicle of women's progress. Every free ticket issued in our transport corporation buses stands as a symbol of women's rights, financial savings, and self-confidence. From rural regions to metropolitan cities, women today are travelling more confidently and independently than ever before. Our department remains committed to further strengthening public transport and ensuring the continued benefits of this historic scheme.

• Ramalinga Reddy, Minister for Transport

karnataka information

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Peak electricity demand in Delhi on Thursday

8231 in MW. Delhi sizzled on Thursday, pushing peak power demand to this summer's highest of 8231 MW, discom officials said. According to Delhi's State Load Dispatch Centre, the demand crossed the 8,000 mark for the first time this year on Wednesday. Delhi's peak power demand in 2026 was higher than the corresponding days of 2025. PTI

Decrease in the net migration to the U.K. in 2025

1,71,000 In 2025, the net migration to the U.K. fell to 1,71,000, nearly half of the previous year's figure of 3,31,000, according to official data. The decline was mainly driven by fewer non-EU work-related arrivals following tighter visa rules. The figures come amid concern over undocumented migration. AFP

Missing persons traced between May 7 and 21 by the Gujarat police

701 Gujarat police have traced 701 missing persons between May 7 and May 21 under 'Operation Milap' and reunited them with their families, Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi said on Thursday. The special drive has been launched under Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel's leadership, with all necessary resources made available to the police. PTI

COVID-19 cases recorded in Singapore from May 10 to 16

12,700 Singapore recorded around 12,700 new COVID-19 cases between May 10 and 16, a rise of nearly 59 per cent from the previous week, according to official data. Daily hospitalisations also increased, though no deaths were reported. Authorities said the NB.1.8.1 variant is driving infections. PTI

Health ministry flags substandard drug samples in April audit

169 Central and State drug testing laboratories identified 169 drug samples as "not of standard quality" in April, including 42 flagged by Central laboratories, the Union Health Ministry said. Authorities said action is being taken regularly to remove substandard and fake medicines from the market. PTI

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Should the rupee be left to depreciate?

Following days of sustained losses, the rupee has closed at nearly ₹97 to the dollar; while some advocate letting it find its own level, there is a risk in allowing depreciation to continue unchecked, especially as rising import costs of essential goods could fuel inflation

EXPLAINER

Rahul Menon

Continuous days of sustained losses has seen the rupee close at almost ₹97 to the dollar, with no indication that the slide has been arrested. Rising oil prices and the threat of external inflation will put further pressure on the rupee in the days to come. This has prompted calls for intervention to prevent further falls.

Some writers, like Harvard professor Gita Gopinath, have resisted calls for intervention by the RBI, advocating for letting the rupee find its own level. A weaker rupee would automatically curtail imports and boost exports. Intervention would only obstruct the free flow of market forces.

While intervention does have its challenges, there is danger in letting the process of depreciation continue unabated, especially when much of it is being driven by speculative finance. With foreign interest rates bound to rise, capital will flow out faster, leading to stronger negative pressures on the rupee. In such a scenario, it might take inordinately long for the rupee to 'find its level', and the inflationary dangers of a weak rupee will exert even more stresses on a populace already exposed to hardship as a result of worldwide spikes in energy prices.

GETTY IMAGES

Can intervention deepen volatility?

A current account deficit implies more imports than exports, and hence a greater need for foreign currency. If this is adequately met by foreign capital inflow to purchase assets like stocks, the rupee's value relative to the dollar will not change.

If the economy experiences a deficit without sufficient inflow of foreign capital, it faces a problem, with demand for foreign exchange exceeding available supply. Mainstream models dictate that in such a situation, the rupee must depreciate. The weaker rupee makes exports more affordable and imports more expensive, leading to an automatic adjustment of the current account deficit relative to the available inflow of foreign capital.

In such a scenario, intervening to artificially prop up the value of the rupee only delays the inevitable. It inhibits adjustment by ensuring import demand does not fall, because the rupee has not depreciated enough to naturally shut off higher import demand, the cause of the widening deficit in the first place.

What is the difference between a weak rupee and a falling rupee?

Arguments for non-intervention, however, conflate a falling rupee with a weak rupee. A fall in the rupee value would not automatically increase export demand if the market expects a further fall. Exports might be higher when the rupee is weak, but may not rise when the rupee is falling if foreign buyers expect the price to fall even further and for goods to become cheaper at a later date.

At the same time, if the economy imports essential goods like oil, demand may not automatically reduce sufficiently as the rupee falls. If people expect the rupee to fall further, and for the prices to rise even more tomorrow, they may front-load purchases today and increase import demand in the short run. This can be seen in the rush to buy petrol when prices were raised, as consumers expected further increases in the future.

A falling rupee would see higher import values, but no necessary increase in exports, ensuring that the deficit is not curtailed. The very problem that required a depreciation might just perpetuate itself. One might argue that exports would pick up and imports reduce when the process eventually works itself out. But the adjustment process is rarely painless. Rising import values of essential goods will lead to rising inflation in the domestic economy that has already experienced reverse migration and real wage squeezes.

What is the role of capital flows?

For the sake of argument, one can posit an equilibrium value of the rupee driven by fundamental values, such as export and import demands that exhibits uniform and predictable behaviour as the rupee changes value. The process may be long, but the economy might eventually settle at this value, driven by fundamental changes in the current account. However, this assumption neglects the role of speculative foreign capital.

Much of the fall in the rupee has been driven by speculative outflows of foreign institutional investment that, for whatever reason, does not see Indian assets as being sufficiently remunerative. Perhaps investors think returns on Indian stocks will not be high in the future, that growth is not sustainable, or that interest rates will rise in developed country markets. Whatever the reason, these speculative expectations of foreign investors can lead to capital outflow and depreciation, necessitating current account adjustments based on the sentiments of foreign investors.

In such a situation, the 'actual' value of the rupee is determined not by consumption demand but by speculation. There are no fundamentals or technical values underpinning the pure speculation of financial markets. With indications that foreign Central Banks may soon raise interest rates, the rupee could come under further pressure.

Intervention is one amongst many policies that must be considered, and one that even developed economies have resorted to. As the yen slid against the dollar in April this year, Japanese Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama signalled that the government would take 'decisive action' in financial markets to maintain the yen.

Intervention to stem speculative capital flows is extremely hard to manage, and can lead to negative outcomes if the force of speculation is too great, or if governments do not - or cannot - show enough commitment in markets. However, we must not assume that the rupee can find an equilibrium value soon, for its fall is being driven by speculation rather than any fundamental economic behaviour. It is time to have a serious conversation regarding the role and place of foreign capital in India's growth story.

(Rahul Menon is associate professor at O.P. Jindal Global University.)

THE GIST

- If the economy experiences a current account deficit without sufficient inflow of foreign capital, it faces a problem, with demand for foreign exchange exceeding available supply.
- Much of the rupee's decline has been driven by speculative outflows of foreign institutional investment. These speculative expectations can lead to capital outflow and depreciation, necessitating current account adjustments driven by market sentiment.

How does the Gaganyaan's life-support system operate?

What are the systems designed to support astronauts aboard the spacecraft while in orbit?

Unnikrishnan Nair S.

The Environmental Control and Life Support System (ECLSS) replicates the earth's atmosphere in earth orbit by managing air, water, temperature, and waste. In short-term space missions, all supplies are carried from the earth and waste is stored for disposal later. Long-duration missions recycle the waste back into useful resources like breathable air and clean water.

What is air revitalisation?

Carbon dioxide is removed from the earth's atmosphere by photosynthesis and by dissolving in the oceans. In Gaganyaan (the Indian Space Research Organisation mission to place a small crew of Indian astronauts in a 400 km orbit around the earth), astronauts' exhalation will increase the cabin's carbon dioxide content and has to be artificially removed. Elevated levels of carbon dioxide can lead to hypercapnia, causing symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, and impaired cognitive function.

A healthy adult normally exhales around 1 kg of carbon dioxide per day, though this amount increases significantly with physical exertion. The air revitalisation system (ARS) provides fresh air, removes carbon dioxide, and filters trace contaminants or odours that would otherwise accumulate in the cabin. For short missions, oxygen is supplied from high-pressure gas bottles. According to standards, a healthy crew member needs 0.84 kg of oxygen per day to support metabolic functions.

Carbon dioxide is removed using lithium hydroxide canisters. Each canister has activated charcoal that absorbs any odours in the cabin air. A spent canister is replaced by the crew with a fresh one typically every 20-24 hours. In a microgravity environment lacking natural convection, small fans in the ECLSS are the circulatory system that prevents lethal carbon dioxide and hazardous oxygen pockets from lingering.

How are pressure, temperature and humidity controlled?

The Gaganyaan crew module is designed to maintain a comfortable environment with a temperature of 20-26°C and relative humidity between 30% and 70% to ensure crew comfort and equipment safety. The moisture released through the crews' breath and sweat are the main sources of humidity in the cabin.

Low humidity in the crew cabin can lead to dry skin, irritated eyes, and higher risk of static electricity discharge that could damage electronics. High humidity promotes microbial growth and causes condensation that may lead to short-circuits or corrosion.

Heat in the crew module is primarily generated by the metabolic body heat of the astronauts (100 to 150 W per crew) and continuously operating onboard electronics and avionics. An active cooling system is used to regulate temperature. Heat is removed by circulating the air through heat exchangers, which will expel the heat into space. The humidity is managed by condensing units that collect water to prevent fogging and short-circuits.

The pressure is held at 101.3 kPa. To mimic the earth's sea-level conditions, the pressure control system uses electronic sensors and safety valves to balance the air and oxygen levels.

Where does water come from?

The primary challenge in space is water doesn't 'pour' but forms floating globules that can cause short-circuits in electronics or pose a hazard if inhaled accidentally. So water must be mechanically forced from storage using pressurised bladders to avoid gas-liquid mixing.

In Gaganyaan, the crew relies on supply of potable water stored in specially designed pouches. They can be pressed to force water directly into the mouth.

How is waste managed?

In microgravity, liquid and solid waste do not "fall", requiring suction-based airflow systems to pull waste away from the body and prevent it from floating around. These systems must also separate and stabilise waste to avoid microbial contamination and the buildup of toxic gases like ammonia.

In Gaganyaan, specialised faecal collection bags will be used and urine will be sucked through funnels. All waste will be chemically treated to neutralise odours and inhibit bacterial growth, then stored in sealed containers for disposal after return.

How are fires suppressed?

The lack of gravity allows fires to expand into a sphere that is harder to reach with traditional suppressants. In Gaganyaan, smoke detectors will sound an alarm to alert the crew. Fire extinguishers that create fine water mists can be used to put the fire out. A water mist effectively cools the fire and also scrubs toxic smoke particles.

Russia's Soyuz has the option to depressurise the cabin as a last resort to extinguish the fire after the crew has worn a pressure suit.

(Unnikrishnan Nair S. is Former Director, VSSC and IIST; Founding Director, HSFC; and an expert in launch vehicle systems, orbital re-entry and human spaceflight technologies. He is currently working as Dr Sarabhai Professor at VSSC)

II PU exam-2 results out, 45.65% students pass

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Girls outperformed boys with a pass percentage of 47, as against 45 achieved by boys

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board on Thursday declared the results of the II PU exam-2, which recorded a pass percentage of 45.65. In exam-1, the State achieved 86.52% results. With this, the overall/consolidated results of II PU this year have reached 92.25%.

There were 80,535 students who appeared for exam-2, and of those, 36,764 passed. The highest number of students who appeared for exam-2 were from the Arts stream with 33,451, followed by Commerce with 23,615 and Science with 23,469. The Science stream boasts the highest pass percentage at 50.79%, followed by Arts with 43.72% and Commerce with 43.27%. Exam-2 was held from April 30 to May 13 at 253 exam centres. According to the consolidated results this year, a total of 96% students passed in the Science stream, followed by 92.84% in Commerce and 83.31% in Arts.

Girls outperformed boys with a pass percentage of 47, as against 45 achieved by boys. As many as 62 students achieved distinction, 8,086 students achieved first class results and 16,940 students passed with second class. The highest number of centums was achieved in Mathematics, with 315 students earning perfect scores. This was followed by Chemistry, where 75 students achieved centums, and Physics, with 61 students. In Biology, 36 students secured centums, while 48 students did so in Computer Science. Sixty students scored full marks in Kannada.

Students may apply for a scanned copy of their answer scripts from May 21 to 23. Scanned copies will be available for download from May 22 to 24. Students can request revaluation and retotalling from May 22 to 25.

Fake call centres cheating U.S. citizens by offering 'tax advice' busted; man from Delhi, another from U.P. held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Cyber Command has busted four fake call centres in Bengaluru that were allegedly cheating U.S. citizens by impersonating a prominent American accounting firm.

Acting on specific intelligence inputs, officials of the Cyber Crime Police Station (South East), along with the Special Cyber Cell, conducted co-ordinated raids at four locations across Bengaluru where the illegal call centres were operating.

According to investigators, the accused were posing as representatives of a reputed U.S.-based accounting company, and allegedly duped American citizens by offering fake tax advice, licence renewal services, and counterfeit software licence keys. The fraudsters reportedly collected huge amounts of money from the victims under the guise of service charges. The police said the call centre employees used fake identities resembling those of U.S. officials to gain the trust of victims. During the raids, the police seized 44 SSDs, two mobile phones, two laptops, nine CPUs, pre-written scripts used to communicate with victims, and other electronic accessories allegedly used in the cyber fraud operation.

The arrested accused have been identified as Prashanth from Delhi and Akash from Uttar Pradesh. Investigations revealed that the accused had allegedly floated a company named 'Circle Square LLC', and used multiple shell companies to siphon off large sums of money obtained from U.S. citizens.

Investigators said the accused had recruited unemployed youths from Bengaluru and other States and trained them using prepared scripts to lure victims. The employees were given US accent training.

The police said nearly 120 employees were working for the operation and were provided salaries and accommodation by the accused.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, MAY. 22
RISE 05:53 SET 18:40
RISE 11:19 SET 00:00

SATURDAY, MAY. 23
RISE 05:53 SET 18:40
RISE 12:14 SET 00:15

SUNDAY, MAY. 24
RISE 05:53 SET 18:40
RISE 13:05 SET 00:56

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	34	22
Bengaluru	34	21

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be little warm. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur. Night will be comfortable.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light to moderate rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Student alleges rape bid; claims police refused to help

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 20-year-old college student has filed a complaint that a realtor molested her and attempted to rape her during a party. She also alleged that despite complaining to the police, the accused threatened her repeatedly and launched violent assaults, forcing her to flee the city. She alleged that the police, instead of taking action against the accused, questioned her character.

According to the FIR registered at the Madiwala Police Station, the incident occurred on May 11 when the student, who studies at a private college and works part-time at a food outlet, attended a party hosted by the café owners. The accused, identified as Hainas, a native of Kerala and a real-estate broker, allegedly attacked her after her boss and his friend stepped out. Upon hearing the commotion, they returned and rescued her.

In a video statement, the victim alleged that on May 12, when she and her friends attempted to lodge a complaint at Madiwala Police Station, associates of the accused intimidated them outside the station. On May 14, nearly nine men, allegedly led by an associate identified as Suresh, were seen near her workplace.

Fearing for her safety, the student said she fled to Kerala. The police later registered an FIR on May 18 against Hainas and his associates.

Government of Karnataka

Haveri Urban Development Authority, Opposite to B.A.M.S Collage, R.s. No:85B, Hanchinal layout, Haveri-581110

Sl NO: HUDA/CA.A/2026-27/81 **E-mail id: hudahaveri@gmail.com P.No: 08375-297388** Date : 16/05/2026

Notification

As per the Karnataka Urban Development Authority (Allotment of Civic Amenity Sites) Rules, 1991as per Rule 3(3) paper notification is published s inviting application for allotment of civic Amenity Sites reserved in approved private layout by the HUDA under KUDA Act-1987 from registered Society/ Board/ Trust. For further information and clarification please do contact the undersigned.

Sl. No	Colony/Layout Name/ Village	R.S no	Plot no	Plot Area (in sq.mt)	Registration fees (in Rs.)	Rate per Sqmt (in Rs.)	Total Amount fixed for CA Site	10% advance deposit to be paid	purpose reserved for	Reserved Category
01	Near Nandini Layout, Haveri	245E	03	518.49	1000-00	4900-00	2540601-00	254061-00	Office Building	General
02	Near Varadaneshwari park, Haveri	144G	01	1517.55	2000-00	4900-00	7435995-00	743600-00	Community Hall	General
03	Near Durga calony, Ijarilakamapur	40D	37	1032.00 Part 526.15	2000-00	3300-00	1736295-00	173630-00	Community hall / Office building	General
04	Ganajur road, Haveri	304B/2	106	202.34	1000-00	2000-00	404680-00	40468-00	Educational purpose	Schedule caste
05	Near Daneshwari Nagara, Haveri	83/3	17	630.88	1000-00	4500-00	2838960-00	283896-00	Hospital/Others	Handicap
06	Near LIC colony, Ijarilkamapur	22/1a to J/6a/1	41	539.023	1000-00	3600-00	1940483-00	194049-00	Cultural center /Others	Schedule caste
07	Bharati Nagar, Haveri	148/1e	02	220.00	1000-00	4900-00	1078000-00	107800-00	Training center	Schedule caste
08	Bharati Nagar, Haveri	148/1e	03	156.09	1000-00	4900-00	764841-00	76485-00	Milk booth	General
09	DC office road, Ijarilakamapur	26a/1a/4b	01	480.49	1000-00	3600-00	1729764-00	172977-00	Cultural /Educational center	General
10	Near Nandi layout, Ijarilakamapur.	4/1a,2	02	412.55	1000-00	3600-00	1485180-00	148518-00	Pre-Primary school	Schedule tribes
11	Near Nandi layout, Ijarilakamapur.	4/1a,2	91	689.14	1000-00	3600-00	2480904-00	248091-00	Community Hall	General
12	Near Nandini layout, Haveri	208/3	02	436.66	1000-00	4900-00	2139634-00	213964-00	Hospital/Others	Schedule caste
13	Ajjayana Temple road, Devagiriyallapur	60/2	01	3320.40	5000-00	2900-00	9629160-00	962916-00	Educational / Cultural center	General
14	Girji Layout, Aladakatti	200	02	1563.35	2000-00	1200-00	1876020-00	187602-00	Community Hall	General
15	Girji Layout, Aladakatti	200a	04	1125.06	2000-00	1200-00	1350072-00	135008-00	Educational purpose	General
16	Ajjayana Temple road, Devagiriyallapur	66/1a+1b+ 1k+1d+1e	62	956.73	1000-00	2500-00	2391825-00	239183-00	Hostel /Office building	General
17	Near Srusti layout, Devagiriyallapur	32/2a/3	38	434.07	1000-00	2500-00	1085175-00	108518-00	Hostel	Government
18	DC office road, Devagiriyallapur	109/3a	73	912.66	1000-00	2500-00	2281650-00	228165-00	Hostel/Others	General
19	Near Nandi layout, Ijarilakamapur.	3/11, 3/1b/1	18	253.95	1000-00	3600-00	914220-00	91422-00	Office building /Others	Schedule caste
20	DC office road, Devagiriyallapur	72/7	13	243.84	1000-00	2500-00	609600-00	60960-00	Water supply installation with treatment plan	General
21	Ganajur road, Devagiriyallapur	51/4k	40	386.66	1000-00	2500-00	966650-00	96665-00	Hostel/Others	General
22	Kerematthihalli road, Haveri	138/2a	03	596.70	1000-00	4900-00	2923830-00	292383-00	Religious center	General
23	Near Nandi layout, Ijarilakamapur	3/3b, 3/4, 3/5, 3/6, 3/7, 3/8, 3/9	28	404.878	1000-00	3600-00	1457561-00	145757-00	Hostel	Government
24	Siddarood Badavani, Haveri	230/2a	36	411.15	1000-00	4900-00	2014635-00	201464-00	Library	General
25	Naganur road, Ijarilakamapur	78/8	04	784.68	1000-00	3600-00	2824848-00	282485-00	Hostel/Others	Schedule caste
26	Near Taj nagar, Haveri	87/2	01	526.45	1000-00	4500-00	2369025-00	236903-00	Educational Purpose	General
27	Near Nagendranamatti. Haveri	314/3	33	607.03	1000-00	2000-00	1214060-00	121406-00	Educational Purpose	General
28	Beside J H College, Ijarilakamapur	42/11	09	360.00	1000-00	3900-00	1404000-00	140400-00	Training center	Schedule Tribe
29	Beside Siddarameshwar function hall, Devegiriyallapur	91/1b	01	1042.66	2000-00	3000-00	3127980-00	312798-00	Hostel/Others	Schedule caste
30	Near medical college, Devagiriyallapur	39/1b	02	1495.35	2000-00	2900-00	4336515-00	433652-00	Hostel/Others	General
31	DC office road, Devagiri yallapur	86a/4	31	470.32	1000-00	2900-00	1363928-00	136393-00	Hospital/Others	Schedule caste
32	Near Srikantappa Layout, Haveri	200/1b/1 200/a	03	268.1724	1000-00	4900-00	1314045-00	131405-00	Hostel/Others	General
33	Near Srikantappa Layout, Haveri	201/7	20	1116.7510	2000-00	4900-00	5472080-00	547208-00	Bala mandira /Others	General
34	Ajjyanagudi road, Devagiriyallapur	66/11	03	1011.60	2000-00	2900-00	2933640-00	293364-00	Cultural/Educational center	General

Note ; **If more than one application are applied for a site** : (1) First preference shall be given to those establishment of Central Government, State government, Corporation or a institute/trust/local bodies which are formed by the government. (2) For the society of Scheduled caste / Scheduled tribes.

Allotment rules and conditions : (1) Applicant must be Institution, Society or an association registered under Karnataka societies Registration Act,1960 (Karnataka Act, 17 of 1960) or a Co-Operative society registered under the Karnataka Co-operative Societies Act, 1959 (Karnataka Act 11 of 1959) or a trust created wholly for any charitable, educational or religious purpose; (2) A) The objectives and activities of the institution and public cause served by it, since its establishment. B) Audit Reports (3-years) C) The present location of the institution / Telephone number D) The benefit likely to accure to the general public of the locality by allotment of the civic amenity site E) The bona fide and genuiness of the institution as made out in the annual reports etc F) The need of the civic amenity site by the institution for providing the civic amenity in question. (3) Prescribed application format (1) and (2) shall be collected from authority by paying fees Rs. 200-00 and the filled form shall be submitted in person or by registered post with in last date **30-06-2026** by 4.00 pm. 10% of the EMD should be paid along with application by DD taken from Nationalized bank. (4) C A Sites are allotted on a lease basis for a period of thirty years only. (5) The lessee shall exclusively use the site for providing the civic amenity for purpose which it is allotted, if violated the allotment will be cancelled. (6) Lessee should construct the building within 3 years from allotment. (7) Area or dimensions of CA Site may alter, as on ground conditions. Applicants should assertion the actual ground condition or dimension. (8) Lessee doesn't pocess any right to subdivide or sub lease or give pocession to others. The lessee shall not become the owner, of or derive any title to, the site allotted during the period of lease. (9) With effect from the date of taking pocession of the site, the lessee shall be liable to pay taxes, fees and cesses payable in respect of the civic amenity site and any building erected there on. (10) Allotment may be made at 50% of lease amount fixed by the authority in the following cases, a) Institution established for the welfare of physically handicapped and mentally retarded; b) Educational institution running the schools in only kannada medium; c) The departments of the central Government or the State Government, Corporation or a body established by the Central Government or State Government. (11) In the said notification 18% of the sites shall be reserved for institution established exclusively for the benefit of scheduled caste the majority of the members of which consist of scheduled caste and 3% of such sites to an institution established exclusively for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes the majority of members of which consist of persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes, and if at the time of making allotment sufficient number of such institution are not available the remaining sites so reserved may be allotment to other institution. (12) Government offices in need of CA sites, should submit the application in lieu, after allotting reserved sites to Government departments, the rest available sites shall be allotted to societies, trust as per the reservation of the act. (13) If the lease amount or annual the annual installment is not paid within the period of ninety days, further extension of time not exceeding sixty days may be given and the institution shall pay in addition, interest at the rate of 12 percent on the said amount for the extended period. If the lease amount or the installment is not paid within such extended period also, then registration fee and the initial deposit shall be liable to forfeiture and the allotment cancelled without any prior Intimation. (14) Rights to alter and cancel the said notification is reserved with Commissioner/Chairman, HUDA, Haveri.

Sd/- (Sannafakkirouda N Gajigoudar)
Chairman, HUDA,
Haveri

DIPR/Haveri/KSMCA/111/2026-27

Sd/- (Pujar Veeramallappa)
Commissioner, HUDA,
Haveri

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ELECTRICAL ACCESSORIES

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as KUMUDA, R/o. No.12, 7th Cross, BHEL Layout, Pattanagere, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangaluru - 98, now and hereafter wish to be known as KUMUDA K. All documents bearing the names KUMUDA and KUMUDA K refer to one and the same person. Henceforth, I shall use the name KUMUDA K for all purposes.

SRI MAHENDRA Yadav K A S son of Amaranarayana Swamy K V aged 42 residing at ward No 09, Malapalli, Chintamani Town, Chikkaballapura Dist, Karnataka State, have changed my son name from STALIN M to AMAR M vide affidavit dated 12.05.2026 sworn before advocate and Notary M Devaraja, Chintamani

I, ADITYA L. Kochar Residing at No. 24, 1st Cross, J.C. Road, 2nd Cross, Behind VISL Building, Sindhi Colony, Bangalore-560002. Hereby affirm that the names Lalith Kumar Kochar J. and Lalith Kumar Kochar both refer to one and the same person, namely my father. Affidavit Dated 20.5.2026 Sworn Before Notary V. Rajashekhara, Bengaluru-130, Reg No. 6732

I, SURAJ Kapoor S/o Vishwanath Kapoor Residing at Flat No.204, 2nd Floor, N.R.Royal Manor, Royal Enclave Layout, Rachenahalli Village, Jakkur Post, Bengaluru-560064 have changed my Son's Name from Vibhum Vishwanath Kapoor to Jaskirat Vishwanath and he shall here after be known as Jaskirat Vishwanath for all legal purposes, vide Affidavit Dated: 05-05-2026 Sworn Before Notary Leela, B'luru

I, CHANDRA Devi, W/o. Popat Lal, residing at #17, 1st Floor, Tulsi Niwas, Subramaniyam Lane, Cotton pet, Bengaluru-560053, have changed my name to Chanda Devi vide Affidavit Dated: 21/05/2026, sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bengaluru.

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Decoding SIR Impact in West Bengal

The post-SIR polls in West Bengal saw the BJP secure a decisive victory, with AITC chief Mamata Banerjee alleging electoral manipulation. Large-scale deletions and opaque additions of electors during the SIR had a major impact on the rolls' demographic composition; and appears to have influenced the results alongside anti-incumbency and communal polarisation

Prasenjit Bose

The BJP's win in West Bengal has evoked strong reactions across the political spectrum, ranging from celebratory acclaim to profound shock and disbelief. While the victors, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have claimed this to be an anti-incumbency mandate for change, the vanquished former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has complained about electoral manipulations and foul play. The truth appears to lie somewhere in between.

SIR and polarisation

What stood out in West Bengal's two-phase Assembly election was the unprecedented voter turnout rate of over 93%, compared with 82% in the 2021 Assembly election and 79% in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. This 93% figure, apparently the highest ever recorded in a general election in any major Indian State, was inflated by a low base effect, as the electorate had shrunk by around 80 lakh after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal.

The SIR exercise commenced in West Bengal, along with 11 other States and Union Territories, on November 4, 2025. While it was initially scheduled to be completed by the end of January2026, a new criterion of "logical discrepancy" was introduced by the Election Commission of India (EC), only in West Bengal, to identify and remove more voters from the electoral rolls. This led to an extended process of hearings, judicial intervention, adjudication and finally an appellate tribunal process which continues till date. Reportedly, over 34 lakh appeals are pending in the appellate tribunals.

En masse deletion of electors on an unprecedented scale, alongside a significant number of opaquely made additions, had a major impact on the rolls' demographic composition. This appears to have decisively influenced the election results, besides significant anti-incumbency and communal polarisation.

While the total number of electors in West Bengal fell from 7.34 crore in 2021 to 6.81 crore in 2026, the total valid votes increased from around 6.03 crore to 6.37 crore. Total votes polled in favour of the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) fell from 2.89 crore in 2021 to 2.60 crore in 2026–a decline of 29.5 lakh total votes. In contrast, the BJP's total polled votes increased by 63 lakh, from 2.29 crore in 2021 to 2.92 crore in 2026. The total votes and voteshare of the CPI(M) and the Congress remained broadly the same (Table 1).

The relative magnitude of each component of the twin impact of SIR and anti-incumbency-cum-polarisation can only be understood in terms of the religious-demographic breakdown of SIR deletions. Since religio-demographic data on electors is not maintained or published by the EC, this analysis has relied on digital scrutiny of electoral rolls and deletion lists for the high-profile constituency of Bhabanipur, where BJP's Suvendu Adhikari defeated Ms. Banerjee. Due to the absence of other reliable data from recent years, the 2011 population census has been used for the calculation of projected population of Muslims at districts and State levels.

Deletions under SIR in West Bengal occurred in three phases, viz., enumeration; claims and objections; and adjudication. Out of the 58.2 lakh total ASDD (Absent, Shifted, Deceased, Duplicate) deletions in the first phase, 32 lakh were classified as Absent or Shifted. Digital scrutiny of the ASDD lists revealed that roughly 7.34 lakh (23%) out of Absent or Shifted electors were Muslims. In the 27.16 lakh voters deleted after adjudication, which were mainly the "logical discrepancy" cases, roughly 17.65 lakh (65%) were Muslims (Table 2).

Thus, out of the total of 64.7 lakh State-wide aggregate SIR deletions, excluding deletions under Deceased and Duplicate categories, over 25 lakh were Muslims, i.e., 38.6%, which is higher than their proportion of 27% in the population as per the 2011 Census.

Statewide SIR impact analysis

An Assembly constituency-wise analysis of the impact of 67.26 lakh total SIR alterations–defined as the sum of the deletions under Absent, Shifted and LD cases and the additions during SIR–was conducted by a team of experts. Chart 1 shows the district-wise distribution of these SIR alterations, along with the district-wise shares of projected size of Muslim electors, calculated by applying the district-wise percentage of Muslim population as reported in the 2011 census. This yielded the estimated number of Muslim electors to be 1.77 crore (26%) in the total electorate of 6.81 crore.

Chart 1 clearly shows that the number of SIR alterations were much higher in 12 districts with higher concentration of Muslims, namely North 24 Parganas, Kolkata, Murshidabad, South 24 Parganas, Howrah, Malda, Hoogly, Nadia, Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Uttar Dinajpur and Birbhum. These 12, which accounted for over 84% of Muslim electors, also accounted for over 80% of the SIR alterations.

As six of these districts do not share any international border with Bangladesh, higher alterations under SIR cannot be easily explained in terms of suspected cross-border illegal migrants. It rather seems that the entire minority population in Muslim concentrated districts were placed under suspicion during the SIR process.

AC-wise analysis of the results reveals that out of the 207 seats won by the BJP in 2026, the magnitude of SIR alterations exceeded the winning margin of the BJP in 82 seats. Of these, 70 were located in the 12 Muslim concentrated districts. In 2021, BJP won only 9 out of these 82 ACs. In 2026, the SIR alterations appear to have decisively influenced the electoral outcome in these 82 ACs. In other words, it is not implausible that the BJP would have failed to secure a majority in the West Bengal assembly election without the impact of SIR.

SIR impact in Bhabanipur

This pattern of disproportionate deletion of Muslim electors possibly influencing the results is evident in Bhabanipur constituency, where digital scrutiny of polling station-wise ASDD lists and electoral rolls revealed that of the total 36,664 deletions under Absent, Shifted and LD categories, 9,481 (26%) were Muslims (Table 2). This proportion of 26% is notably higher than the 20% share of Muslims in Kolkata district's population in 2011. These deletions of Muslim electors were highly concentrated in Parts 1 to 112 (polling booths), falling under Wards 63, 77 and 74 of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, with high concentration of Muslim populations. Moreover, while Muslims accounted for 26% of deletions, they accounted for only 19% (1,025) of the 5,408 additions to Bhabanipur's electoral rolls.

AITC's winning margin over BJP in Bhabanipur Assembly segment had already come down from 58,835 in the 2021 by-election, in which Ms. Banerjee won with a vote share of 72%, to 8,297 in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The net deletion of Muslim electors (total deletions excluding additions) in Bhabanipur AC during SIR was 8,456. In the 2026 election, Bhabanipur recorded 5,524 more valid votes polled compared with the 2024, which is incidentally of a similar magnitude as the total additions during SIR at 5408.

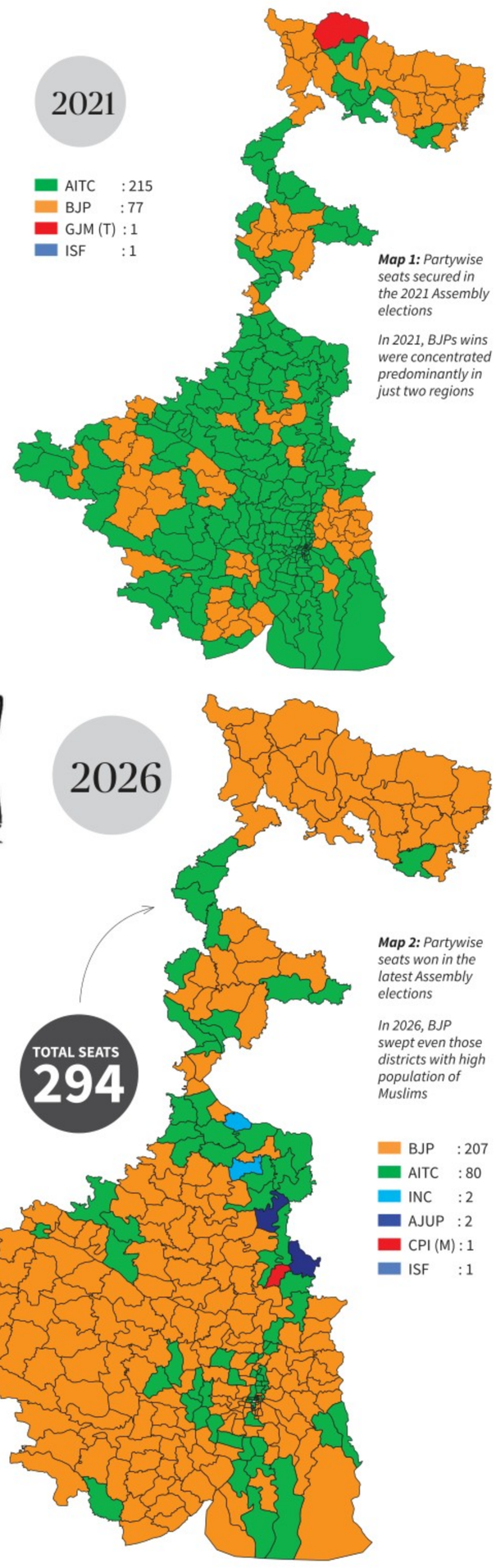
Between 2024 and 2026, votes secured by AITC dropped by 3,649 while BJP's votes increased by 19,753 (Table 3).

Additionally, votes polled by CPI(M) dropped by 10,540 and those by all others reduced by 1,448 between the two elections. It is likely that these votes went instead in favour of the BJP in 2026. However, such a swing in favour of the BJP is unlikely to have happened in the constituency, if not for the SIR that reconfigured the demography.

This raises fresh questions about the intent and legitimacy of SIR, which merits redressal by the Supreme Court, to prevent recurrence in other states. The inoperative and ineffectual appellate mechanism in West Bengal needs to be invigorated to ensure justice for all those wrongfully deleted through opaque, discriminatory and arbitrary processes.

The EC should be held accountable for conducting SIR in a manner that not only led to en masse disenfranchisement of genuine electors on the eve of a general election, but also endangered the future of free and fair elections in the country, which is the cornerstone of parliamentary democracy. The EC must publish a comprehensive statistical report of all SIR related data on deletions, additions and modifications to the electoral rolls in West Bengal, which are hitherto not officially reported, to facilitate further independent analysis and judicial scrutiny.

(Prasenjit Bose is an economist. He heads the SIR Committee of the West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee.)



Map 1: Partywise seats secured in the 2021 Assembly elections

In 2021, BJPs wins were concentrated predominantly in just two regions

Map 2: Partywise seats won in the latest Assembly elections

In 2026, BJP swept even those districts with high population of Muslims

Table 1: Aggregate Electors, Votes Polled & Voteshares secured by parties

	2021	2024	2026*
Total Electors (in crore)	7.3	7.6	6.8
Total Valid Votes Polled (in crore)	6.03	5.9	6.3
Voter Turnout Rate (%)	82.16	78.76	93.58
Total Votes and vote share (in %) secured by major parties			
BJP	2.2 cr (37.97%)	2.3 (39.08%)	2.92 (45.84%)
AITC	2.89 cr (48.02%)	2.76 (46.16%)	2.6 (40.8%)
CPI(M)	0.28 (4.71%)	0.34 (5.73%)	0.28 (4.45%)
INC	0.18 (3.03%)	0.28 (4.72%)	0.18 (2.97%)

Table 2: SIR Deletions & Additions in West Bengal & Bhabanipur AC

Roll Publication Date		No. of Electors: West Bengal - 294 ACs	No. of Electors: Bhabanipur AC *
27.10.2025	SIR Base Roll	76637529	206295
	Total ASDD Deletions	5820899	44770
	Out of which		
	Total Absent + Shifted Deletions	3208115	32766
	Muslim Electors - Absent + Shifted Deletions *	734658	7824
16.12.2025	SIR Draft Roll	70816630	161525
	Additions (Form 6)	182036	5408
	Deletions (Form 7)	546053	2690
28.02.2026	SIR Final Roll	70459284	164283
	LD Deletion after Adjudication	2716393	3898
	Out of which		
	Muslim Electors - LD Deletion after Adjudication *	1765655	1657
09.04.2026	Final Electoral Roll	68125496	160563
	Unreported Additions*	389276	178

*Author's Calculations based on Digital Scrutiny of Electoral Rolls

Table 3: Elections results for Bhabanipur assembly constituency

	2021 VS	2021-VS Bye Elec.*	2024 LS	2026 VS
Total Electors	206389	206527	205553	160563
Total Valid Votes Polled	127376	118577	133889	139413
Voter Turnout Rate %	61.72	57.41	65.14	86.83
Total Votes and vote share (in %) of major parties				
AITC	73505 (57.71%)	85263 (71.91%)	62461 (46.65%)	58812 (42.19%)
BJP	44786 (35.16%)	26428 (22.29%)	54164 (40.45%)	73917 (53.02%)
CPI(M)	DNC	4226 (3.56%)	14006 (10.46%)	3556 (2.55%)
INC	5211 (4.09%)	DNC	DNC	1257 (0.90%)
Others	2304 (1.81%)	1207 (1.02%)	2502 (1.87%)	1054 (0.76%)
NOTA	1570 (1.23%)	1453 (1.23%)	756	817 (0.59%)

* Mamata Banerjee was not the AITC candidate in Bhabanipur AC in 2021 assembly election; She contested the seat in a bye-election in September-October 2021

Chart 1: District-wise distribution of these SIR alterations, along with the district-wise shares of projected size of Muslim electors

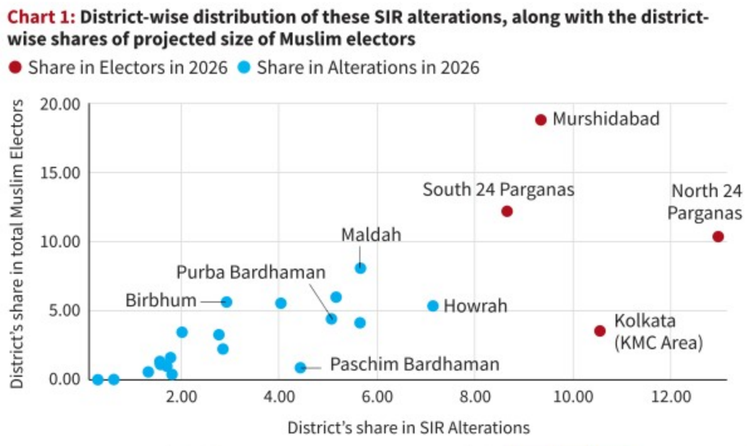
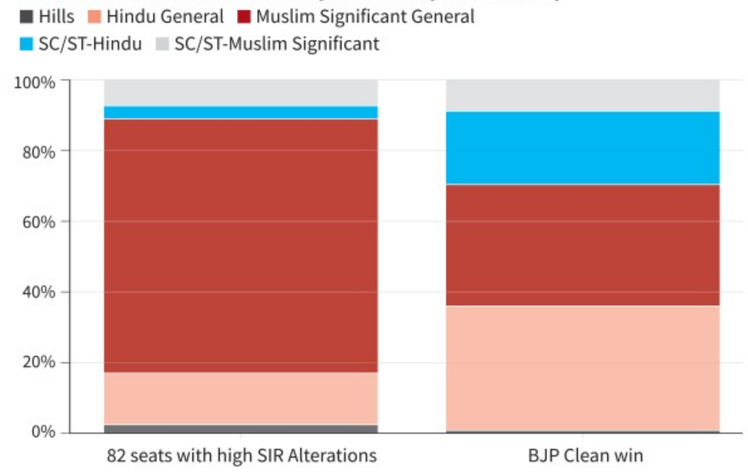
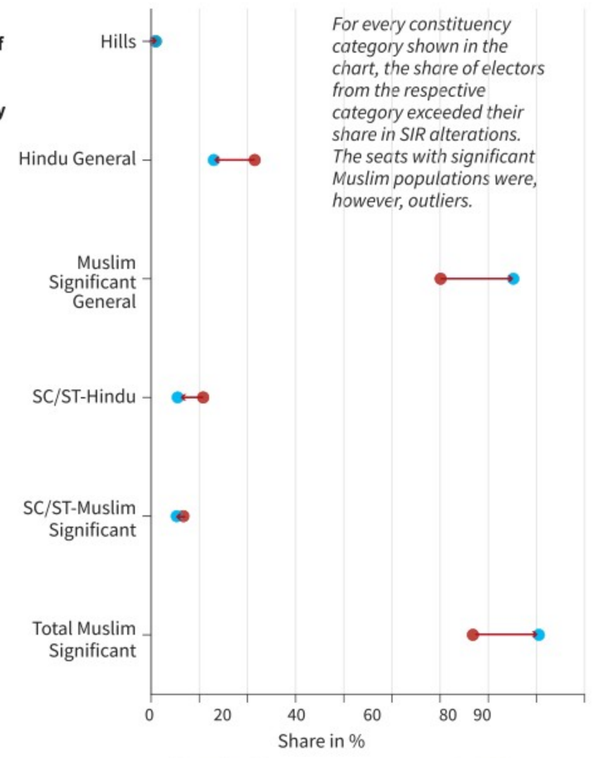


Chart 2: Distribution of seats won by the Bharatiya Janata Party



As the chart shows, Muslims accounted for a significantly higher share of the electors in the 82 seats where the magnitude of SIR alterations exceeded the winning margin.

Chart 3: Distribution of electors and alterations in 2026 Assembly elections



For every constituency category shown in the chart, the share of electors from the respective category exceeded their share in SIR alterations. The seats with significant Muslim populations were, however, outliers.

Source: Data published by Office of CEO, West Bengal in Press Note dt. 28.02.2026 (No. CEO/ PN-05/2026) & Statistical Reports, Election Commission of India published on 08.05.2026

Delhi-Bengaluru Air India flight suffers tail strike while landing at KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An Air India flight suffered a tail strike while landing at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Thursday.

Flight AI2651, operating from Delhi to Bengaluru, experienced a tail strike during landing. Airline officials said that the aircraft landed safely following which all passengers and crew disembarked. The incident occurred at around 11 a.m.

The aircraft was grounded for detailed inspection at KIA, and as a result, the return flight AI2652 from Bengaluru to Delhi was cancelled. Air India said that the incident will be investigated in accordance with established procedures in coordination with the relevant regulatory authorities.

Air India said that the incident would be investigated in accordance with established procedures. FILE PHOTO

The aircraft was grounded for a detailed inspection at KIA, and as a result, the return flight was cancelled

"Air India regrets the inconvenience caused. The safety of our passengers and crew remains our highest priority," an Air India spokesperson said.

As AI2652 from Bengaluru to Delhi has been cancelled alternative arrangements are being made to accommodate affected passengers at the earliest.

"Our ground teams in Bengaluru are providing all necessary assistance," the spokesperson added.

From Page One

State government mulls legal action over SIR

Sources said that the Congress was worried about the deletion especially in districts such as Kodagu, Raichur, Yadgir, Chikkamagaluru, and Davangere, from where migration was high, and where fears of people being left out of the voter mapping done ahead of SIR was high.

The Congress is worried about the deletion especially in districts where migration was high

The mapping of 2025 electoral roll was the reference list, alongside 2002 electoral data, when the last SIR was conducted. In cases of progeny, 2025 voter list was the only basis.

Mr. Patil said that the government was yet to decided on the issues on which it would go to the Supreme Court.

"Deliberations remained incomplete and a decision will be taken in the next four or five days," he said.

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M BG-BGE

Rebate for converting B-Khata to A-Khata hits corporation budgets

Earlier, the fee was set at 5% of the guidance value of the plot; and now it has now been cut to 2% for a 100-day window

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The 60% rebate in the fees for the conversion of B-Khata to A-Khata, announced by Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar on May 13, has upset the Budget Estimates (BE) of the five corporations presented only over a month ago.

Previously, the fee was set at 5% of the guidance value of the plot to be regularised, but it has now been reduced to 2% for a 100-day window due to a lack of interest in the scheme.

Ever since the scheme was introduced in the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA) on October 15, 2025, only 949 B-Khatas have been converted to A-Khatas, collecting a revenue of ₹52.35 crore. GBA has received a total of 11,916 applications against an estimated 7 lakh B-Khata properties in the city.

The five corporations put together estimated a ₹1700.5 crore revenue from this source in 2026-27. If the 60% rebate is applied to all properties, the amount will reduce to ₹680.5 crore.

Estimated revenue from B-Khata to A-Khata conversion (BE 2026-27)

Corporation	Estimated revenue (in ₹ crore)	Own revenue (%)	Share of conversion fees in own revenue (%)	Revenue after 60% rebate (in ₹ crore)
North	680	3,293	20.6	272
West	563	3,306.5	17	225
East	225	3,354	6.7	90
South	225	2,795.15	8	90
Central	7.5	2,342	0.3	3
Total	**1700.5**	**15,090.65**	**11.2**	**680.5**

*BE - Budget Estimates

B-Khata to A-Khata conversion data

Corporation	Applications received	Amount paid (in ₹ crore)	B-Khatas converted
North	3906	15.48	310
West	2959	8.65	166
East	2510	13.09	213
South	2412	15.12	260
Central	129	0	0
Total	**11916**	**52.35**	**949**

Cumulative data since the scheme was launched on October 15, 2025

Ironically, Bengaluru City North Corporation, in its budget, had estimated to collect a revenue of ₹680 crore from the Khata conversion scheme.

While this will hit estimated revenues of the corporations, the recent final notification to building bylaws, where the maximum permissible deviation that could be regularised with a penalty has been increased from 5% to 15%, is expected to bring in more revenues for the corporations. However, there is no estimate available.

Srikanth Vishwanathan, CEO, Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, and a municipal finance expert, said the State government should ensure policy continuity and protect revenue streams for the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). "Over a decade ago, the corporation used to budget a revenue of ₹1000 crore every year from Akrama - Sakrama and not a rupee materialised. Such practices undermine the integrity of the budgets. The State recently approved these five budgets, which means they approved these estimates. If the State now wants to provide a rebate, it must ideally make good the difference," he argued.

Ever since the scheme was introduced, only 949 B-Khatas have been converted to A-Khatas in GBA

North, West hit most

As B-Khata properties are more rampant on the city's outskirts, corporations covering these areas estimate more revenues from this source.

It made up 20% of the North Corporation's own revenues and 17% of the West Corporation's. The rebate will hit them the most.

However, these corporations are now going into a special drive mode to target double the number of properties they hoped to convert this year to protect their revenues.

K. V. Rajendra, commissioner, Bengaluru City West Corporation, said their budget estimate to collect ₹563 crore from the source was based on a target to convert 15,000 properties this fiscal, of the overall three lakh B-Khata properties.

"On an average, we estimated that each property will pay anywhere between ₹3 lakh and ₹5 lakh. Now that will be down to ₹2 lakh, we have decided to carry out a special drive to convince property owners with big plots to avail the rebate window. We are targeting 30,000 properties to convert, to make ₹600 crore," he said.

Bengaluru City North Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar said the North Corporation would also take the same route and take up a special drive to target double the number of properties this fiscal than they initially thought.

"We had estimated we could cover 22,000 properties this fiscal, now we will work to cover two times that," he said.

Manpower boost ordered to meet Ejipura Flyover deadline

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After missing multiple deadlines, M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), has now directed the contractor of the infamous Ejipura Flyover to deploy additional staff to complete the work within the stipulated deadline.

The deadline, as per the previous revision, is October. As the project resumed after a lull of nearly six years, officials have missed at least four deadlines.

On Thursday, Mr. Rao held a review meeting with officials and contractors and directed that all necessary measures be taken to ensure completion of the flyover within the stipulated timeline.

Mr. Rao directed that the Bescom unit located at the Madiwala-side ramp construction site be relocated within two days and that three trees opposite Kendriya Sadan be removed within four days to facilitate the commencement of ramp construction work. "The down-ramp work on the Domlur side has reached 70% completion. Deploy additional manpower and complete the remaining down-ramp work within 15 days," he said. Following this, the Sarjapur-side down-ramp construction should be taken up and completed within the next 15 days, he noted. The launching of four spans near the Ejipura Signal junction commenced on May 20 and is expected to be completed within two months. He further instructed the contractor to expedite the construction of five portal frames and complete the main flyover project by the end of October.

The deadline, as per the previous revision, is October.

The Ejipura Flyover is being constructed over a length of 2.59 kilometres. Out of a total of 762 segments, 731 have already been cast. The remaining casting work is expected to be completed by the end of June. Of the 66 spans planned for the project, 52 have been completed, while installation of the remaining 14 spans is currently in progress, according to the GBA.

He directed officials to ensure that there are no potholes. "As monsoon season is approaching, both side drains should be thoroughly desilted to facilitate the smooth flow of rainwater," he said.

Workshop for teachers held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A workshop for teachers was held at Presidency School Banashankari by educator Swati Popat Vats recently. Dr. Vats is an expert on early childhood education in India, and she spoke on foundational learning, teaching practices and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) at the workshop. More than 100 teachers participated.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our clients are negotiating for the purchase of the Schedule property described below from its owner Mrs. Bavana N. S and Mrs. G. Nagarathnamma.

Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title, claim lien or interest in the Schedule Property may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned along with documentary evidence in support of their claim within 10 days from the date of this publication, failing which, our client will be advised to proceed with the conveyance as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule Property.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Mr. Vikash Jain,** Aged about 43 years, s/o. Sumer Chand Jain, r/a. and **Mrs. Rashmi Jain,** W/o. Vikash Jain, resident of House No. 144, Second Floor, Sector-15, Faridabad, Haryana-121007, are the absolute owners in possession and enjoyment of the below mentioned **'Schedule Property'**

Hence, it is hereby informed to the general public that the alleged agreement if any dated 27-05-2025 hereby stands cancelled and the general public are hereby informed not to have any correspondence with the said person in respect of the schedule property. If at all anybody enters into any transaction with the said person in respect of the schedule property, my client will not be held responsible for the consequences of the same.

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All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Flat No. TF-10** in the building known as Elegant Embassy 2, in the third floor comprising off 2 bed rooms, 2 bath room, Hall with dining space, 1 balcony and 1 utility, apartment Admeasuring **1292 Sq. feet** of super built up area along with **309 sq. feet** of undivided share in the land and one car parking right in the parking lot i.e., No. TF 310 in the basement situated at Kenchenahalli Village, South Taluk, situated at **# 655, 19th Main Road, Ideal Homes Society, Kenchenahalli Village, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore - 560 098,** within the limits of BBMP ward No. 160

Sunitha.M, Advocates,
M/s. SM Associates,
No. 75, 6th Block Jayanagar,
Opp: Yediyur Ganesha Temple,
Bangalore-560070 Ph: 9742619477

Bangalore Date : 21-05-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our clients **Mr. Amit Kumar & Mrs. Chaarumathi** are intending to enter into a sale agreement to purchase the property bearing Residential Site No. 2190, bearing E-Katha E-PID No. 3773030904, situated at 3rd Stage, Off Suranjandas Road, BBMP Ward No. 58 (Hosathippasandra), Bengaluru, measuring East to West by 12.40 Meters and North to South by 9.15 Meters in all measuring 113.46 Square Meters morefully described in the **"Schedule Property"** hereunder. Any person/s entitles having any claim, right, title or interest over the schedule property or any part thereof in any manner objecting the sale of the schedule property may lodge their claim with documentary proof with the undersigned within **7 days** from the date of this Public Notice, after which our clients shall proceed to complete the sale transaction with the owner and any claim or objection received thereafter will not be binding over the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property **Site bearing No. 2190**, bearing E-Katha E-PID No. 3773030904 formed by Bangalore Development Authority, measuring East to West **12.40 Mtrs.** And North to South **9.15 Mtrs.** in all measuring **113.46 Metres,** situated at **HAL III Stage Extension, Bangalore** along with a residential building and bounded on:

East : Road
West : Site No. 2197
North : Site No. 2191
South : Site No. 2189

BEENA.P.K, Advocate,
NEXTLEGAL SERVICES,
270/A, 4th Main 5th 'C' Cross
80 feet Road, HAL 3rd Stage,
Indiranagar, Bangalore-560075.
Mobile No. 91+9972092077

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby informed that, our client has proposed to purchase the Schedule property through Auction Purchase from its present owner **Canara Bank which they have acquired the ownership by way of mortgage which their borrower M.Pavan Kumar Reddy had mortgaged to them and subsequently committed default.** Person/s, Financial Institution/s, Bank objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right, share, title and interest in the Schedule property may lodge their objections/claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence **7 days** from this day of publication and any objection/claims received thereafter will not be binding on our clients and our clients will proceed to purchase the below mentioned Schedule property as if there are no claims/ objections.

-:SCHEDULE PROPERTY:-

All that piece and parcel of an immovable residential property bearing **Site No. 121, BBMP Khatha No.1803/121,** new PID No.192-W1298-50 (erstwhile Beguru Village Panchayath Khatha No.1019-1181-766/A-1026/1184), measuring East to West 100 Ft., and North to South 60 Ft., totally measuring 6,000 Sq.Ft., carved out of Sy.No.114 (converted vide official Memorandum bearing No.B.Dis.ALN.SR(S) 581/82-83, dated 25-01-1982, issued by the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore) now comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP, ward No.192, situated at **Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bangalore.**

V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM
No. 23, "Venkatadri" 6th Main,
5th Cross, S.R.Nagar, Bangalore-560027.
Ph : **98441 55041, 9620579310**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Ministry of Railways
(South Western Railway, Mysuru Division, Mysuru)
Notification

Under Section 20(A) of the Railways Act, 1989 (Act 24 of 1989), the Central Government has issued this notification stating its intention to acquire land for a public purpose, namely for the construction of an R.U.B. by closing Railway Gate No. 67 located between Ammasandra-Banasandra railway stations (Km. 114/300-400), in the survey numbers of D. Hosahalli, Heggare, and Lingapura villages under the Special Railway Project.

Any interested persons having objections regarding the said land acquisition must submit their objections to this office within 30 days from the date of publication of this notification, in accordance with Section 20D(1) of the Railways Act, 1989. Objections received after this period will be rejected without any further notice.

Such objections relating to the construction of the R.U.B. by closing Railway Gate No. 67 between Ammasandra - Banasandra railway stations (Km. 114/300-400), in the survey numbers of D. Hosahalli, Heggare, and Lingapura villages, shall be submitted either personally or through an advocate to the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumakuru-Rayadurga, Tumakuru-Davanagere, and Special Railway Project, Tumakuru. The objections will then be heard and further action will be taken accordingly.

SCHEDULE

The details of the land related to the construction of the R.U.B. by closing Railway Gate No. 67 between Ammasandra-Banasandra railway stations (Km. 114/300-400), in the survey numbers of D. Hosahalli, Heggare, and Lingapura villages, are as follows.

DISTRICT : TUMAKURU TALUK : TURUVEKRE HOBLI : DANDINASHIVARA VILLAGE: D.HOSAHALLI

Sl No	Sy No	Registered Owner's Name	Acquired Extent (In Acres-Guntas) Total	A Kharab	B Kharab	Balance	Classification of land	Remark
1	13/2	H.T. Murthy S/O Thimmappa H.T. Manjunatha S/O Thimmappa, H.T. Nanjundaiah S/O Thimmappa	0-01	–	–	0-01	Dry	--
2	23/6	Kempegowda S/O Kempegowda	0-01 1/4	–	–	0-01 1/4	Dry	–
3	23/8	Pappanna S/O Thimmegowda	0-01	–	–	0-01	Dry	RTC has not been digitized
4	5/1	H.S. Honnappa S/O Shivananjaiah (shivananjappa)	0-01	–	–	0-01	Dry	--
5	7/5	H.M. Nataraju S/O H.N. Marikempaiah	0-03	–	–	0-03	Dry	--
6	7/4	Yashodamma H.C. W/O Devaraju N.S.	0-01 1/2	–	–	0-01 1/2	Dry	–
7	6/1	Vanajakshi K.V. W/O Sunil Kumar S.A	0-04 1/2	–	–	0-04 1/2	Dry	–
8	6/7	Prasanna Kumar S/O Late Nanjundaiah	0-04 1/2	–	–	0-04 1/2	Dry	–
9	26	Thimmappagowda S/O Narasegowda	0-01 1/4	–	–	0-01 1/4	Dry	–
10	49/5	Y. Honnaiah S/O Yalakkigowda	0-01 1/2	–	–	0-01 1/2	Dry	–
11	49/6	Nanjappa S/O Yallakkigowda	0-01 1/4	–	–	0-01 1/4	Dry	–
12	49/4	H.T. Venkategowda S/O H. Thimmappagowda	0-01 1/2	–	–	0-01 1/2	Dry	–
		Total	**0-23 1/4**	–	–	**0-23 1/4**	-	–

EXTRACT			
Dry	A-Kharab	B-Kharab	Total
0-23 1/4	–	–	0-23 1/4

DISTRICT : TUMAKURU TALUK : TURUVEKERE HOBLI : KASABA VILLAGE: HEGGERE

Sl No	Sy No	RTC Holders Names	Acquired Extent (In Acres-Guntas) Total	A Kharab	B Kharab	Balance	Classification of land	Remark
1	72/4	H.T. Gangadharaiah S/O H.K. Narasegowda	0-00 1/2	–	–	0-00 1/2	Dry	--
2	72/5	H.T. Gangadharaiah S/O H.K. Narasegowda	0-10	–	–	0-10	Dry	--
		Total	**0-10 1/2**	–	–	**0-10 1/2**	--	--

EXTRACT			
Dry	A-Kharab	B-Kharab	Total
0-10 1/2	–	–	0-10 1/2

DISTRICT : TUMAKURU TALUK : TURUVEKERE HOBLI :KASABA VILLAGE: LINGAPURA

Sl No	Sy No	RTC Holders Names	Acquired Extent (In Acres-Guntas) Total	A Kharab	B Kharab	Balance	Classification of land	Remark
1	34/2	Thimmappa S/O Rangegowda	0-06	–	–	0-06	Garden	--
		Total	**0-06**	–	–	**0-06**	--	--

EXTRACT			
Dry	A-Kharab	B-Kharab	Total
0-06	–	–	0-06

For details log on : **www.egazette.gov.in**

Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumakuru-Raydurga and Tumakuru-Davanagere Railway Project, Tumakuru

PUB/139/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my Client intends to purchase, the below mentioned Schedule Property from the land owners namely **(I). Mrs. Haseena Taj, (ii). Mrs. Shaheen Taj, (iii). Mrs. Mubeena, (iv). Mrs. Almas Jan, (v). Mrs. Salma Jan, (vi). Mrs. Firdous Unnisa all are daughters of Late Khaaji Ameer Amjaad Sharrif and (vii) Sharaf Unneesa wife of of Late Khaaji Ameer Amjaad Sharrif.**

If any of the person is having any objection for the said transaction, may kindly forward their objection in writing to the undersigned within a period of **Seven (7) days** from the date of issuance of this notice with all documentary proof thereof failing which My client will treat the title of the Schedule Property as clear and marketable and will proceed to enter into the any transactional Documents.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Sy. No.	Survey No.	Old Survey No.	Type of Land	Extent in Guntas	Boundaries East	West	North	South
1	12/10	12/8	Agricultural	0-01.08	Sy.No.12/8	Sy.No.12/11	Road	Sy.No.12/1
2	12/11	12/8	Agricultural	0-02.00	Sy.No.12/10	Sy.No.12/12	Road	Sy.No.12/1
3	12/12	12/8	Agricultural	0-02.00	Sy.No.12/11	Sy.No.12/13	Road	Sy.No.12/1
4	12/13	12/8	Agricultural	0-02.00	Sy.No.12/12	Sy.No.12/14	Road	Sy.No.12/1
5	12/14	12/8	Agricultural	0-02.00	Sy.No.12/13	Sy.No.12/15	Road	Sy.No.12/1
6	12/15	12/8	Agricultural	0-02.00	Sy.No.12/14	Sy.No.12/16	Road	Sy.No.12/1
7	12/16	12/8	Agricultural	0-02.00	Sy.No.12/15	Sy.No.11	Road	Sy.No.12/1
			Totally Measuring	0-13.08 Guntas				

All the above Item No.1 to 7 are Situated at Shankaneepura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

Mr. Sharath. R, Advocate
#3456, 1st Floor, 1st 'F' Cross, Beside BMTC Bus Depot, 7th Main, 2nd Stage, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru - 560040.
Mob:-9980931971 : **E mail:-sharath@lexiadvocates.com**

Dt: 22-05-2026 Place : Bengaluru

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

Tender Notice No. PCE/BLW(ET)/Publish/2026-27/02-03 Date:19.05.2026

E-TENDER

Dy. Chief Engineer, Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi on behalf of the President of India invites "Open" Tender through E-Tendering from the contractors- **S.N.:** 1, **Tender No.:** BLW-WAT-ET-02-26-27, **Name of Work:** Zone works in East Township for one years i.e. 2026-27 under SSE/W/ET, Zone works in Central Township for one years i.e. 2026-27 under SSE/W/CT, Zone work in WT (North) for the year 2026-27 under SSE/W/WT/North in BLW Varanasi & Zone work in WT (South) for the year 2026-27 under SSE/W/WT/SOUTH in BLW Varanasi, **Tender Cost (Rs.):** 4,68,32,670.89, **Earnest Money (Rs.):** 9,36,700.00, **Time of Completion:** 12 Month, **Closing Date of Tender:** 10.06.2026 At 15:00 pm, **Date of Opening of Tender:** 10.06.2026 At 15:30 pm, **S.N.:** 2, **Tender No.:** BLW-WAT-ET-03-26-27, **Name of Work:** Zone works in ADM area for one years i.e. 2026-27 under SSE/W/ADM, Zone work in workshop under SSE/W/WS during the year 2026-27 & Zonal works under SSE/BR (North and South) for one years i.e. 2026-27, **Tender Cost (Rs.):** 2,72,36,375.46, **Earnest Money (Rs.):** 5,44,700.00, **Time of Completion:** 12 Month, **Closing Date of Tender:** 10.06.2026 At 15:00 pm, **Date of Opening of Tender:** 10.06.2026 At 15:30 pm. **Special Notice:** To see the detailed terms & conditions of tender and for submission of tender, please visit website: **http://www.ireps.gov.in**

PRO/BLW/C-04 **Dy. Chief Engineer**

/blwvaranasi Website- blw.indianrailways.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owners **Smt.M.Ranganayaghi** W/o Late S.M.T.Madhiyazhagan and her children **Miss.M.Kungumaishwarya, Miss.M.Amrutha** and **Sri.M.Vidya Sagar,** all are residing at: No.5, Shiva Shakti Nilayam, 1st cross, Annipura, Sudhamanagar, Bengaluru-560027.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the house property bearing Municipal No.21/5, PID No.48-25-21/5, E.PID No.4770582271, measuring East to West 45ft and North to South 30ft, in all measuring 1350 Sq.ft, together with a building thereon, situated at 3rd Cross, Siddaiah Road, Sudhamanagar, Bengaluru and bounded on:

East by : 3rd Cross Sudhamanagar
West by : Private property
North by : Property of R J Shantharam
South by : 5th Cross, H.Siddaiah Road.

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bengaluru – 560 004

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY, MYSURU DIVISION, MYSURU)
NOTIFICATION

Under Section 20(A) of the Railways Act, 1989 (Act No. 24 of 1989), the Central Government has issued this notification for a public purpose, namely the acquisition of land required for the construction of an RUB by closing the railway gate situated at Level Crossing No. 72 between Banasandra-Karadi (Km. 122/500-600) in the survey numbers of A. Hosahalli village under the Special Railway Project.

Any person having an interest in the said land acquisition, if they have objections, shall submit their objections to this office within 30 days from the date of publication of this notification, in accordance with Section 20D(1) of the Railways Act, 1989. Objections received thereafter will be rejected without any further notice.

Such objections regarding the closure of the railway gate and construction of the RUB at Level Crossing No. 72 between Banasandra-Karadi (Km. 122/500-600) in the survey numbers of A. Hosahalli village shall be submitted either personally or through an advocate before the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer for the Tumakuru-Rayadurga, Tumakuru-Davanagere and Special Railway Project, Tumakuru. The objections will be heard and further action will be taken accordingly. The order passed by the Competent Authority under section 20D(2) of the Railways Act, 1989 shall be final. The map and land details relating to this notification may be inspected at the office of the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer for the Tumakuru-Rayadurga, Tumakuru-Davanagere and Special Railway Project, Tumakuru.

SCHEDULE

The details of the land required for the construction of the RUB by closing the railway gate situated at Level Crossing No. 72 between Banasandra-Karadi (Km. 122/500-600) in the survey numbers of A. Hosahalli village are as follows.

DISTRICT: TUMAKURU, TALUK: TURUVEKERE, HOBLI: KASABA, VILLAGE: A.HOSAHALLI

Sl No	Sy No	Registered Owner's Name	Acquired Extent (In Acres-Guntas) Total	A Kharab	B Kharab	Balance	Classification of land	Remark
1	111/6	H.R. Nagaraju S/O Rangaramaiah, H.R. Krishnamurthy S/O Rangaramaiah, H.R. Yashodakumar S/O Rangaramaiah	0-05 1/2	-	-	0-05 1/2	Dry	-
2	112	Surya Narayanachar	0-13 1/2	-	-	0-13 1/2	Dry	-
3	113	Gunduthopu, Public Cemetery	0-31 1/2	-	-	0-31 1/2	Government	-
4	-	Government Lane	0-07 1/2	-	-	0-07 1/2	Government	-
5	107/3	H.R. Santhosh Kumar S/O Eshwaraiah	0-01	-	-	0-01	Dry	-
6	107/5	Eshwaraiah S/O Javaraiah	0-01	-	-	0-01	Dry	-
7	107/1	H.R. Radhakrishna S/O Late Rangappa	0-01	-	-	0-01	Dry	-
8	107/4	H.R. Radhakrishna S/O Late Rangappa	0-03 1/2	-	-	0-03 1/2	Dry	-
9	107/2	Narasmma W/O Dasappa	0-20	-	-	0-20	Dry	-
10	107/2	Manjunath S/O Late Thimmaiah, Nagamani D/O Late Thimmaiah, Gowramma W/O Late Thimmaiah, Gowramma W/O Late Rangaiah	0-12	-	-	0-12	Dry	-
		Total	**2-16 1/2**	-	-	**2-16 1/2**	-	-

EXTRACT				
Dry	A-Kharab	B-Kharab	Government	Total
1-17 1/2	-	-	0-39	2-16 1/2

For detail log on : www.egazette.gov.in

Special Land Acquisition Officer & Competent Authority
Special Railway Project,Tumakuru

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M BG-BGE

Shelved stray dog microchipping plan back on track

The direction follows a decision to maintain data on ABC centres and surgeries undertaken by States and to steadily review the progress of the programme; along with Bengaluru, other urban local bodies in Karnataka to take up the initiative; corporations will be eligible to receive assistance for capital investment from the Centre towards establishing ABC centres, and covering sterilisation costs

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

A microchip being implanted in a stray dog on a trial basis in Bengaluru in 2024. FILE PHOTO

The stray dog microchipping initiative, which had been put on the back burner, is back on track, with the Union Ministry of Animal Husbandry directing municipal corporations to implant radio frequency identification (RFID) tags during animal birth control (ABC) surgeries.

The direction follows a decision to maintain data on ABC centres and surgeries undertaken by States and to steadily review the progress of the programme. Now, not just Bengaluru, but other urban local bodies in Karnataka too will have to take up the initiative, as the directive has been issued by the Union government.

According to the documents of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying reviewed by *The Hindu*, the ABC project-in-charge will have to register all ABC centres across their jurisdiction on the Bharat Pashudhan portal, and also geotag them. Further, the centres will be equipped to update dog sterilisation data on the portal.

A Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) source explained that for updating the data, the department has drafted a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), which mandates implanting RFID tags (microchips) immediately after surgery.

The document noted that after a dog recovers from the surgical wound, the microchip in the canine will be scanned, generating a unique ID that will be uploaded to the Bharat Pashudhan portal. The particular ID will contain details such as vaccination records, the place where the dog was picked up, surgery details, and also a photograph.

Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh has written to the Urban Development Department (UDD) to ensure compliance with the SOP aimed at stray animal management.

Upon complying with the directions, the corporations will be eligible to receive special assistance for capital investment from the Centre towards establishing ABC centres, and covering the cost of sterilisation.

Not new to Bengaluru

The initiative, however, is not new to the city, as the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had planned microchipping at least two years ago and had also piloted a study.

The initiative did not sit well with animal rights activists, who cited potential harm to stray dogs and moved the court. The matter is sub-judice. Despite this, the BBMP floated tenders thrice in the past, but failed to attract bidders on two occasions, while on the third occasion, the BBMP dropped the contractor, as the latter could not provide sufficient resources needed for implementation.

Yet, the initiative was never dropped, as the BBMP saw it as a flagship programme and was determined to implement it. However, interest fizzled out after the new corporations were formed. Now that the Centre has given directions, the corporations are ready to decide how to proceed.

How is it different?

When the project was planned by the BBMP, the issue was that there was a single contract for the entire city, which meant immense pressure on the contractor. Now, corporations have two options: if they plan small-scale procurement and the cost is below ₹5 lakh, they can independently purchase the required devices and continue the project. If the estimated cost exceeds ₹5 lakh, the corporations will float tenders, but the pressure on the contractor will be lower as the area covered will be smaller.

Under the earlier plan, the BBMP had to capture stray dogs separately for implantation before releasing them.

Now, the need for separately capturing stray dogs will be eliminated, as microchipping will be carried out during the ABC surgery itself.

Bengaluru currently has eight ABC centres (one for each of the earlier BBMP zones), and the work has been contracted to five NGOs.

'States should be allowed to conduct CET for medical courses'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Members of the Youth Congress protesting against the NEET paper leak, in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) should be decentralised and that States should be given the opportunity to conduct the Common Entrance Test (CET) for medical courses.

Speaking at a protest against NEET irregularities organised by the Youth Congress at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Thursday, he said that education is a subject in the concurrent list. "In the federal system, the respective States should be given independence to conduct the entrance tests for all professional courses," he argued.

"The NEET question paper was leaked, and neither Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan nor Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken responsibility. Dharmendra Pradhan has washed his hands of rescheduling the NEET. This responsibility should be borne by Dharmendra Pradhan and Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister should apologise unconditionally to the students," he demanded.

"In Karnataka and other States, the CET was conducted transparently for those seeking admission to medical courses. Narendra Modi replaced CET with NEET in 2016. Question papers have been leaked five times in ten years. Students have been preparing for the NEET for a year. Many have spent thousands of rupees on training in coaching centres. Those who have money get coaching, the poor and children from rural areas cannot get coaching," he said.

"During the last BJP government under Yediyurappa and Basavaraj Bommai, the question paper was leaked in the examination for the recruitment of engineers and sub-inspectors. It has never happened in the history of Karnataka that a senior police officer who was Additional Director General of Police went to jail in this regard. There have been many such question paper leaks when the BJP was in power at the Centre and in the State," he added.

"Students who had worked hard continuously have committed suicide in despair due to the NEET question paper leak. It was the responsibility of the Union government to provide compensation to the families of the students who committed suicide." He demanded the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan.

From Page One

State to go ahead with CET counselling first

Further, the Minister stated that during upgradation, the entire fee will be reimbursed to the students who give up the engineering seat and enroll in medical courses. "Due to the delay in NEET, 10% of the students will have their engineering and medical seats interchanged. It was suggested that they should allow free exit to those students. All the professional college associations have unanimously agreed to this," Dr. Sudhakar said.

Seat matrix

Prasanna. H., Executive Director of Karnataka Examinations Authority , requested that the seat matrix of courses based on CET rank, including engineering, be provided soon.

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Jairam Ramesh
Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

Omar Abdullah
Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir; Vice President, Jammu & Kashmir National Conference

Dr. K. G. Arunraj
Minister of Tamil Nadu, General Secretary for Policy, TVK

Prabha S. Chandra
Director, NIMHANS

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Hitting a pause

The demand for Indian tech talent, predominantly concentrated in Bengaluru, seems to be on a downward slope. Once a lucrative sector for aspirational young Indians, there is a lull in hiring in the ITeS sector. **Shilpa Elizabeth** speaks to experts who say the shift is structural not cyclical

Abeed (name changed), an M.Tech student from IISc, is one month away from finishing his course. After doing his B.Tech in mechanical engineering, Abeed decided to pursue a master's in an AI-related course at the prestigious institute.

Between 2022 - when he finished his undergrad from an engineering college - and now, things have changed vastly. "Fresher hiring was very good in 2022," he remembers. However, lately, placements have been sluggish, he says, with whatever existing demand largely concentrated in AI-related roles.

"Big names like Google or Microsoft are either not coming or are hiring in single digit numbers," says Abeed, who has been offered a job by a startup. "A lot of the recruiters are now startups," he says.

The demand for the Indian tech talent, predominantly concentrated in Bengaluru, seems to be on a downward slope.

Once a lucrative sector for aspirational young Indians seeking upward social and economic mobility, the ITeS sector now seems to be hitting the pause button. According to experts, the shift is structural not cyclical.

A nosedive

According to data from specialist staffing firm Xpheno, the tech sector's current contribution to total active talent demand is 47%. This is the second time it has fallen below 50% since December 2025. The starkness of this becomes more pronounced when compared against the peak demand the sector saw in as recent as January-February 2022, when it commanded around 87% of all active talent demand in India.

The tightening of entry-level hiring is echoing in campus placements, where companies once recruited engineering graduates in droves.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

And then began the free fall.

By mid-2023, the demand took a nosedive. Across the world, tech majors started announcing layoffs. In India, IT and ITeS companies began retreating from engineering college campuses where mass hiring across disciplines was once commonplace. A lull in hiring set in, drawing a flat headcount growth from most ITeS companies.

Subdued demand

The Indian IT job market has been largely driven by IT services companies, which employ around 25 lakh people. While the West Asia crisis played a role in the demand drop, the headwinds started well ahead of it.

A combination of global economic uncertainty, high interest rates, weaker client spending in key overseas markets, and the correction that followed aggressive post-pandemic hiring contributed to this. The anticipation of AI has been another factor contributing to the sluggish talent demand.

According to Xpheno's Active Tech Jobs Outlook - India report for May 2026, the Indian tech sector's active talent demand outlook for the month of May has dropped by 2% compared to the previous month. The report further adds that there are no visible significant changes in the context of the larger tech market that can potentially drive a positive recovery trend in the near term.

> The top seven Indian IT services companies, which together employ about 1.6 million people, have reported nearly flat headcount growth over the last 12 months.
>
> **KAMAL KARANTH**
> Co-founder, Xpheno

The changing workforce

D.D. Mishra, analyst at Garnter, notes that the dream run of IT services companies was long over.

"The industry is moving towards autonomous modes of operation. For a very long time, the kind of profitability and the double-digit growth that the ITeS companies have enjoyed have slowed down," he says.

Top Indian ITeS companies such as TCS, Infosys, HCLTech, Wipro and Tech Mahindra have reported single digit or negative growth in revenue since FY 2025.

"Labour-based delivery is no longer a very popular mode of doing things. The concept of a low-cost destination may also change over a period of time unless we flip it and make these destinations much more suitable for AI ops, implementing the AI capabilities and driving the AI capabilities along with the clients," notes Mishra, adding that this disruption, which is long-term, will change the labour market.

He also foresees a change in the organisation structures. The pyramid-shaped staffing structure will give way to a diamond-shaped structure, with a stronger concentration of specialised talent in the middle and relatively fewer roles at the top and bottom.

This is reflected in the Xpheno report too.

According to the report, mid-senior openings account for 48% of all active openings in May 2026, accounting for 52,000 openings. "Opportunities for entry-level tech talent up to two years of experience have dropped to 13K active volume compared to 15K in April 2026. On a YoY basis, entry-level openings show a 19% drop."

Sanketh Chengappa, director and business head of professional staffing at Adecco India, affirms that he has been seeing this changing demand from his clients.

"Most of our clients come up with requests for people with minimum two years' experience."

According to him the demand for roles such as AI/ML engineers, generative AI specialists, data scientists, AI architects, ML ops engineers, LLM specialists, cloud and platform engineers, DevOps platform engineers, cloud security engineers and specialists in cyber security and risk have been rising. However, the talent is in short supply.

No more mass hiring

The tightening of entry-level hiring is echoing in campus placements, where companies once recruited engineering graduates in droves.

Phani Kumar Pullela, Director, placements, RV University, Bengaluru, recollects a question recently posed by an industry person to him.

"They asked me if we have a fresher with two years of experience." As ludicrous as it may sound, it becomes clearer as he explains. "What they are referring to is whether the student is undergoing a summer immersion or summer internship, if they are doing capstone projects, whether they are done in partnership with the industry and if the student is coming up with three to four internships by the time they complete the third year. Such students are immediately getting jobs."

In other words, if earlier candidates were provided rigorous training at the companies that recruited them, today they are expected to be ready for the role from day one. This has brought down the volume of the hires, too.

"We get 500 to 700 companies, but they don't want to hire in large numbers now. Many of them hire in single digits, but look for high-quality candidates and pay them relatively high. We are seeing a maximum of five students being selected per company for packages above ₹10 lakh per annum," Pullela says.

> For the large majority of students, a B.Tech or BE alone is not proving adequate anymore to find a job. They have to additionally do some certificate courses in AI
>
> **SHWETA (NAME CHANGED)**
> Project Manager at an MNC

AI interviewers

Many companies now also seem to be using AI interviewers for the first round of technical interviews. This has not been easy for the students.

"Students are struggling to pass through this because human interviewers monitor and note parameters other than the technical knowledge, such as attitude, confidence, positivity and so on; Whereas we don't know what these AI interview tools are coded to look for," says Pullela.

The challenge on the communication front has also been significant.

"With a human interviewer, your language skills may not matter as much. Previously, even if the students spoke a bit of Hindi or other regional languages, it wasn't an issue. But the AI interviewers are less tolerant even of the accents," Pullela notes.

This essentially means that the colleges and universities not only need to prepare the students for future-ready roles during the academic period, but also prep them to survive such interviews.

"Practising with an AI interviewer is very critical. We also have to take care of the emotional wellbeing of the students. With the AI in picture, we need to be prepared for 20 rejections before one success. At RV University, we have the university counsellors. After every five placement rejections, we call the student and the placement officer counsels them."

Diminishing bargaining power

With the hiring slowdown, layoffs and AI anxiety, the labour market, which went through the 'great resignation' during the pandemic period, followed by peak demand, is now at a position of disadvantage.

Employees working within the industry note that people are staying back despite bad working conditions and low hikes because they may not be able to find a job if they leave.

"The oversupply of engineers has significantly reduced the bargaining power of people. Demand is less, and supply is more for entry-level jobs," says Shweta (name changed), a project manager at the Bengaluru office of a multinational engineering and technology company.

Seeing that most companies are now hiring for data science and AI-related roles, some private colleges, including in Bengaluru, have started offering Bachelor of Engineering Courses in AI and data science, she says.

"In our department, students from such courses are being hired as interns now. Earlier, interns used to be students from IITs and NITs," says Shweta, who started her career as one such intern.

"For the large majority of other students, a B.Tech or BE alone is not proving adequate anymore to find a job. They have to additionally do some certificate courses in AI. Some others do internships at startups where they pay money to those startups. In a way, it is a failure of the system because this is not how a job market should work," she says.

AI-washing

On the companies' front, for the last many quarters, the net headcount growth has been more or less flat. While the top ITeS companies saw an average attrition of around 13% in the last year, the roles were mostly filled in later. Experts question the logic behind the rehires if AI was ready to take over human roles as claimed by many companies while laying off their staff.

"The top seven Indian IT services companies, which together employ about 1.6 million people, have reported nearly flat headcount growth over the last 12 months, even as their average attrition stood at around 13%. This means that of the roughly 2,17,000 employees who exited during the period, companies backfilled nearly 2,14,000 roles, choosing not to replace only about 3,000 employees," points out Kamal Karanth, co-founder, Xpheno, who adds that the trend is similar even at the top multinational IT companies.

"Choosing to hire people, even if it is for different roles, instead of trying to make those roles work with AI, suggests that the AI impact on business has not come into play as many claim, and the IT Services world is still linear. We don't have that much AI engineering talent in India to hire, either," he says.

Karanth, who describes the practice of invoking AI as a cover for job cuts driven primarily by financial considerations as "AI washing", says that the bigger concern, however, is fresh graduates.

"Last year, the industry absorbed only around 1,20,000 freshers, even though India produces nearly 8,50,000 BE and B.Tech graduates annually, including about 2,50,000 computer science graduates. We can't even absorb these 2.5 lakh. Many of them take loans and study. Industry is not absorbing them; meanwhile, is saying AI will do all entry-level jobs. This can create socio-economic problems if such large numbers of young graduate engineers aren't getting jobs, thanks to AI."

Prepare for future

As conversations around AI's impact on the labour market evolve, most experts suggest upskilling as the immediate solution to mitigate its disruption.

"It's the law of the forest. The last animal will always get eaten up. One has to keep upskilling and there's no two ways about that," says Thyagu Valliappa, founder of Sona Centre for Advanced Learning & Entrepreneurship (SCALE).

SCALE has been envisioned as an integrated campus housing companies and colleges to promote skilling, innovation, and entrepreneurship, to develop future-ready talent for emerging industries and the evolving requirements of GCCs.

"We have 6,600 engineering colleges in India. And then you're struggling to find the required talent. That means something is wrong somewhere," Valliappa remarks.

Mishra of Gartner stresses that there is an urgent need to ramp up the capabilities on the supply side given that the future is heading towards 'autonomous.' "What Gartner predicts is that the net job losses will be almost zero going forward because you will need people of a different skill set, who will replace the existing skills... But there will be gap in terms of AI skills demand and supply," he says, adding that AI skills building and preparedness for AI must go hand in hand.

"That way we will have the right kind of environment to make sure that growth thrives. Around 7% to 8% of our GDP is IT services; we cannot afford to lose that area at this point... This is a fundamental shift. The sooner we embrace it and start re-imagining the future, the better it is for everyone. Otherwise, the change can be brutal," he cautions.

Tributes poured in after Dileep Raj's death, but filmmakers and actors believe the Kannada film industry failed to offer him roles worthy of his immense talent

Applause came too late

Too little, too late Actor Dileep Raj was unappreciated in his time, (below) with director Keshav Moorthy. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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In the 2023 Kannada musical film *Orchestra Mysuru,* Dileep Raj delivers a stunning performance in the pre-climax scene. The actor plays Naveen Raj, an orchestra veteran, who has failed in his quest to sing at the prestigious Yuva Dasara stage in Mysuru.

In the intense scene, you see the actor display a range of emotions as his character expresses jealousy towards the protagonist (Poornachandra Mysore) for living his dream. Naveen is angry, upset, and emotional, and Dileep brings out the character's state of mind in a splendid fashion.

It was this versatility of Raj's that was widely discussed among fans and members of the industry when he passed away recently due to a massive heart attack at the age of 47. People from the film and television fraternities remember him as a performer who did not have to try too hard to be relatable on screen.

The fact that it took Raj's sudden demise for many to realise how good he was, reflects the Kannada film industry's inability to utilise gifted talent. "Dileep Raj never got the opportunities he deserved," wrote Sunayana Suresh on *Instagram.* The film critic and filmmaker added, "I hope this becomes a reminder for filmmakers and audiences to stop reducing performers to labels like 'underrated' or 'ignored". Cast them more often. Celebrate them when they are alive."

The retrospective appreciation of Raj was a clear proof of the industry's recurring phase of posthumous guilt. Pawan Kumar of *Lucia* (2013) and *U Turn* (2016) fame says the handling of Raj's talent exposes the industry's deep-rooted flaw.

"Whenever the topic of Raj arose in the industry, the common response was that 'he is a good actor, but it's tough to make business with him as the lead.' Measuring an artiste's potential by market value shows the industry in a bad light," says Pawan in a tribute video to Raj.

In the video, Pawan says Raj's decision to work on his *U Turn* showed the actor's respect for the art. "I had a female debutant protagonist (Shraddha Srinath) who had the maximum screen space. For someone as experienced as Raj to play the second fiddle, as her boyfriend, was surprising for me."

When Raj failed to receive consistent opportunities, he returned to television, a platform that brought him fame initially. He also established a production house and backed several successful serials

Directors who worked with Raj say he never carried an air of entitlement. "For *U Turn,* we were shooting in the night one day. Raj was supposed to perform at around 10 pm, but due to a technical issue, the shoot got extended for more than five hours. We didn't have a budget for a caravan. Raj slept inside his car until the technical glitches were sorted," remembers Pawan.

Director Sunil Mysuru recollects a similar incident. "During the filming of *Orchestra Mysuru,* we couldn't provide Raj a caravan. He would change costumes inside his car," says Sunil, who mentions Raj's ability to switch to the character with ease once.

"He would casually be talking to his wife before his scene. The moment we began filming, he would transform into the character."

Keshav Moorthy, the director who cast Raj in his impressive debut *Nimma Vasthugalige Neeve Javaabdaararu,* says the industry should not forget that it "survives on talent before it survives on numbers. Raj clearly understood the challenges of indie projects. He advised me not to worry too much about the box office fate of my film, saying it was never fully in my control," says Moorthy.

After an encouraging start in films in the mid-2000s (*Milana, Love Guru*), Raj failed to receive consistent opportunities, forcing him to return to television, a platform that had given him fame during his early days as an actor. Raj established a production house and backed several successful serials, including the hit *Hitler Kalyana.*

"For me, Dileep Raj is a successful person, and you can't measure his journey just by his filmography," says promising actor Dheekshith Shetty, who has worked his way up from serials to cinema. "He might not have got the chances he deserved in cinema, but he didn't let his talent go unnoticed. He reached households in Karnataka by producing and directing hit serials."

Actor Sunetra Pandit echoes Dheekshith. "Raj did not wait for somebody to change his fortune. He knew the uncertainties of cinema. He may not have become the king, but he was the kingmaker, the architect behind several hit serials. He let his hard work behind the scenes talk."

Dheekshith feels the industry lacks visionaries who can identify talent. "In Kannada, it's a common practice to stereotype an up-and-coming actor. Until I worked in the Telugu hit *Dasara* with Nani (2023), nobody thought I could play a rugged character. The young generation will benefit when filmmakers take risks and write unique roles."

Moorthy adds, "If Anurag Kashyap hadn't believed in Nawazuddin Siddiqui, we wouldn't have got a brilliant actor. Roles offered to Raj were far beneath his calibre. We had to challenge him with complex roles."

Raj was last seen as a lawyer fighting a tricky case in the blockbuster *Love Mocktail 3,* directed by Darling Krishna, who also played the lead in the movie. "In the courtroom scenes, I needed an actor who could keep the audience hooked to the story, and Raj was the perfect choice," says Krishna.

Just as he was scripting a comeback to the big screen, Raj's career was halted permanently. His acting talent was apparent, but only a few wrote roles worthy of it.

Melting pot of melodies

Curry, a Mumbai-based pop trio debut in Bengaluru this weekend

Going places Sheesh, Ryo, and Kanasue. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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Ashish Palanna, Ria D'Souza and Sumanth Shetty go by their stage names Sheesh, Ryo and Kanasue; together they make up Curry – a South Indian pop band slowly making a name for themselves.

"We've been friends from school; Mangaluru is a small city so almost everyone ends up studying at the same place," says Kanasue. They caught up in Mumbai where they began working after graduating. "When we met up, we decided to form a band. All three of us sing and compose, and I produce the music."

Why Curry? "We were looking for a name that would immediately sound Indian; all three of us felt 'Curry' gave out the right Indian vibe."

In the six years since their inception, the trio have sung songs in around 22 languages. Apart from the major South Indian languages,and Gujarati and Hindi, Kanasue says, "We have also sung in Spanish, Malay, Swahili and other foreign languages. Since we play covers too, we came up with this idea of learning popular songs in other languages."

Their four-track EP *Suprabata* debuted in April and the band releases one song every month. For their show in Bengaluru Curry will present their originals and covers as well as "interesting takes on Kannada songs from the '90s and from *Suprabata*," he adds.

Curry will perform at Mantri Square Mall on May 23 from 7pm onwards. Tickets on BookMyShow.

All that jazz

As younger diners question the appeal of Koshy's, owner Prem Koshy and chef Kiran Narayanan of Moglu are reviving the restaurant's old supper-club spirit with a one-night pop-up

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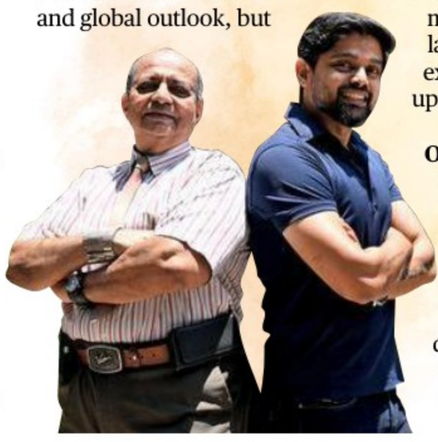
You need to be 'old Bangalore' to understand the charm of Koshy's, often described as the unofficial living room of the city's intellectuals.

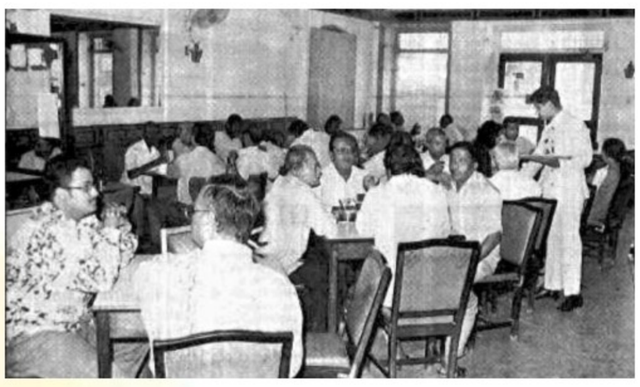
The iconic restaurant, set on St Mark's Road since 1952, may feel humdrum to younger clientele but to regulars there is a comforting familiarity in the unhurried service, old creaky fans and fluffy white bread served with soft butter.

"I wanted to bring some life back to Koshy's," says the owner, Prem Koshy, discussing their supper pop-up on May 22, at Koshy's dining section called Jewel Box, by chef Kiran Narayanan from Moglu restaurant. Friday evening will see live jazz music, classic cocktails and a menu starring Anglo-Indian and Syrian Christian recipes.

Chef Kiran Narayanan, the man behind the restaurant Moglu, has a culinary style that leans to a modern and global outlook, but is rooted in south Indian flavours.



Once upon a time Koshy's bakery began on St Mark's Road in 1940, and opened Parade Cafe in 1952; Jewel Box came a decade later. Prem Koshy and Chef Kiran Narayanan (below). ALLEN EGENUSE J & SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



"I have been coming to Koshy's for many years and became friends with Mr Koshy. Once I invited him to dinner to my place, and created dishes that were a take on the classic dishes at the restaurant, like the mutton cutlet and the lamb roast," he says, explaining how the pop up came together.

On the menu

The one-night only seven course menu will open with jackfruit appalam, Coorgi ham and a cheese dip. The dinner then moves on to charred Brussel sprouts, dynamite shrimp cocktail and inji pulli chicken lollipops. For the main course, there are dishes inspired by classics on the Koshy's menu, including Bannur lamb, Syrian Christian ularthiyathu and a Kuttanadan duck roast. Vegetarians can savour oyster mushroom roast, Kerala idichakka roast and inji puli kohlrabi.

The dinner with have live music played by Joshua Pereira, and cocktails that will take you back to old Bengaluru such as the refreshing gin-based Cubbon Park Smash, and their fiesty 1952 Bloody Mary made with a secret spice mix.

₹2,200 per head on May 22, at Jewel Box, Koshy's on St Mark's Road. For details call 9162300685.

STEPOUT

Theatre talk

Love, Eventually, an immersive theatre experience by Kathalyst, a new production house, will debut in the city. *At Shoonya - Centre for Art and Somatic Practices, Sudhama Nagar, on May 30 and 31, at 3.30 and 6.30pm. Tickets, priced at ₹1800, available on BookMyShow.*

Criminal minds

The Bangalore Literature Festival will present Dead Write, the city's first genre festival dedicated to crime writing with speakers such as Amit Lodha, Anita Nair and Anuja Chauhan presiding. *At the Bangalore International Centre, on May 23 and 24, 10.30am onwards. Entry free.*

State on BJP high command's radar; all eyes on Nabin's visit

Recent developments appear to have made the party leadership to work towards re-establishing its hold in Karnataka

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

After the victory in West Bengal, the Bharatiya Janata Party high command appears to be shifting its focus to Karnataka, though Assembly polls here are two years away. The high command seems to have decided to focus on strengthening its organisation in the State, which is seen as the party's gateway to South India.

This is indicated in the maiden visit of the party's national president Nitin Nabin, who took over in January this year, to the State. Mr. Nabin will be arriving in Bengaluru on a three-day visit on May 23.

Nitin Nabin

Hectic preparations

Though it appears like a routine exercise as Mr. Nabin is here to participate in the party's district-level organisational workshop happening throughout the country, preparations being made indicate the importance being attached to it.

His visit appears like part of the process to chalk out a road map for galvanising party cadre. His visit was preceded by two key events - the public convention to mark five decades of public life of party veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa in Chitradurga and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public address in Bengaluru.

Ahead of Mr. Nabin's visit, BJP national joint organisational secretary Shivaprakash is camping in Bengaluru since May 20. He is reportedly holding meetings with prominent leaders and office-bearers of the party on strengthening the party organisation with an eye on the 2028 Assembly elections, besides the polls to corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

On continuing BYV

Speculation is also rife that he may hold informal consultations on the possibility of declaring incumbent party State chief B.Y. Vijayendra as the full-term president in a bid to avoid uncertainty on his term during the preparations to polls, particularly for the GBA. But any announcement in this regard would have to be made only in consultations with the party central leaders, including Amit Shah. Party sources say that any decision is likely to be made and announced in Delhi.

Meanwhile, Mr. Nabin will hold meetings with party legislators, office-bearers and State core committee members, besides participating in Bengaluru North organisational unit's *prashikshana varga,* party's training camp for its cadre. The cadre is expecting that Mr. Nabin's visit will mark the beginning of concrete efforts to strengthen the organisation, particularly after the party's loss in the bypolls to two Assembly constituencies recently. Earlier, the BJP central leadership appeared preoccupied with other poll-bound States to focus on its faction-ridden Karnataka unit.

But the recent developments, including its own landmark victory in West Bengal and the Opposition's continued political grip in Southern region, appears to have made the party national leadership to work towards re-establishing its hold in Karnataka.

As the BJP was able to form a government for the first time in the south in Karnataka, the party national unit is believed to be of the view that having a government and strong organisation in Karnataka would help in making inroads in other southern States.

HC notice to government on not releasing Gruha Lakshmi arrears

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A PIL petition complained about the government's failure to release ₹5,000 crore towards payment of arrears for February and March 2025

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday ordered issue of notice to the State government on a PIL petition complaining about failure to release ₹5,000 crore towards payment of arrears of two instalments of ₹2,000 each to 1.26 crore women beneficiaries of the flagship Gruha Lakshmi guarantee scheme for the months of February and March 2025, which were withheld due to technical reasons.

A Vacation Division Bench comprising Justice Suraj Govindaraj and Justice K. Manmadha Rao passed the order on the petition filed two labourers, R. Ganga and G.D. Pavithra of Bengaluru.

The petition states that disbursement under the scheme began in August, 2023, and that approximately 1.26 crore beneficiaries had registered by October 2023.

It has been pointed out in the petition that 10 instalments were released between April, 2024 and January 2025, after continuation of the programme for 2024-25.

However, the petition complained that payments for February-March 2025 were not released due to an administrative transition in the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism, under which payments were proposed to be routed through taluk panchayats instead of the Department of Women and Child Development.

It has been alleged in the petition that nearly ₹5,000 crore lapsed because the unpaid amounts were not carried forward into the subsequent financial year, and hence remained unpaid event till today.

The petitioners stated that the continued withholding of these two-month arrears has triggered profound financial distress for families belonging to economically weaker sections who rely heavily on this scheme for daily survival.

The petition has sought a direction to keep ₹5,000 crore in an escrow account till the arrangements are made for disbursal.

Poetry, essay contests to improve reading habits among students

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

To effectively utilise the libraries in schools and improve the reading habit and creative writing among students, Samagra Shikshana Karnataka (SSK) has decided to conduct story, poetry, essay-writing competitions from the academic year 2026-27.

These competitions will be held at the school and cluster levels. In addition, a plan has been chalked out to extend skill education to 1,000 schools across the State.

The School Education Department has established libraries in all the government schools in the State and supplies books every year. However, several study reports have shown that students are becoming more addicted to TV, mobile and internet, and the habit of reading books and writing is declining, said officials of the department.

"Students in schools read textbooks only for the purpose of exams. Apart from that, the habit of reading other books and magazines is declining. The books in the school libraries are not being used properly. Along with knowledge development in children, creative thinking will grow from library books. This is the reason for holding contests," explained K. Vidyakumari, State Project Director, SSK.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has announced in the current year's State Budget that skill education will be provided to students from classes 6 to 8 in government schools. The government has not yet issued clear guidelines or an official order regarding the implementation of this scheme.

However, SSK is already providing skill education to students from classes 9 to 12 in 384 schools in the State, including Karnataka Public Schools (KPS).

As a continuation of this, SSK has taken steps to extend skill education to 1,000 schools from the next academic year.

Currently, three skills are being taught in schools, including Information Technology, automobile, and electronics.

Suo motu case against officials after Lokayukta raids expose illegal sand extraction in Bagalkot

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Lokayukta Police have registered a case against several senior government officials, including the Director of the Mines and Geology Department in Bengaluru, the Deputy Director of Mines and Geology in Bagalkot, the Bagalkot Deputy Commissioner, and tahsildars of Badami, Mudhol, Jamkhandi, Hungund and Ilkal taluks, over alleged large-scale illegal sand extraction in the Krishna riverbed.

According to officials, the action followed complaints regarding rampant illegal extraction activities in Bagalkot district. A detailed report was submitted by the Superintendent of Police of the Karnataka Lokayukta, Bagalkot unit, after discreet inquiries into alleged irregularities in sand extraction operations across Hungund, Ilkal, Mudhol and Badami taluks.

Lokayukta officials during a raid on illegal sand mining in Bagalkot district.

The inquiry reportedly revealed indiscriminate and illegal excavation in the Krishna river bed using heavy machinery in violation of environmental norms and mining regulations.

Following this report, Lokayukta Police were authorised to carry out surprise inspections and initiate action against officials suspected of negligence or collusion.

Acting on these directions, the Superintendent of Police of the Lokayukta, along with officers from neighbouring districts, simultaneously raided 24 locations covering 36 points across Bagalkot district on May 21 morning. The operation involved 28 officers and 90 personnel.

During the inspections, officials allegedly found 65 tipper trucks, 18 excavators, 14 mechanised boats, six tractors and one heavy construction machine engaged in illegal sand extraction.

Investigators found large quantities of illegally extracted sand stored at several locations. Prima facie evidence of widespread irregularities was identified, officials said.

The Lokayukta has directed officials from the Mines and Geology, Revenue, Forest and Environment departments, along with the RTO, taluk panchayat executive officers and jurisdictional police officers, to initiate legal action against those involved in the illegal mining operations.

Officials said further investigation is under way, and action will be taken against the erring officials found responsible for permitting or failing to curb the illegal activities.

Shivamogga police use drones to detect illegal activities

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

Think twice before breaking the law in the open spaces of Shivamogga, the police may be watching from a place you least expect. The Shivamogga district police have taken surveillance to new heights, literally, deploying drones to keep a watchful eye over public areas.

The initiative is already delivering results, with two cases of illegal activity booked in recent weeks after drone cameras caught offenders in the act.

The six-member drone operation team will keep an eye on illegal activities in open places. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shivamogga Superintendent of Police Nikhil B. has constituted a dedicated six-member drone operations team, comprising an inspector, a sub-inspector, and four personnel from the District Armed Reserve, all of whom have undergone specialised training in drone deployment. They have four drones, and as of now they operate two regularly. The team is equipped with a vehicle and is on standby to respond swiftly whenever a tip-off comes in – whether through the police helpline 112 or through informants on the ground.

"There are chances of accused escaping by the time our staff physically reach the spot. With drones, we can capture the activity as it happens and record the faces of individuals by lowering the altitude. Even if we identify one or two of them, we can track down the rest," said Mr. Nikhil.

On April 28, the drone team acted on a tip-off and flew surveillance over a forest area in Kudligere, Bhadravathi taluk, where 19 persons were booked on charges of gambling. In a separate incident, two individuals were caught on camera consuming liquor in an open space on the outskirts of Shivamogga city.

The initiative draws on Mr. Nikhil's earlier experience in Kolar, where the officer first championed the use of drone cameras for surveillance.

Traditionally, police drones in the district were reserved for large public events and processions. Their regular deployment for day-to-day surveillance and crime detection marks a significant shift in policing strategy.

Mr. Nikhil has made a case for acquiring drones equipped with night-vision capabilities, arguing that they would transform night patrolling.

"With a drone in hand, a staff member on night duty can monitor a far larger area than is possible on foot or by vehicle," the official said.

Gig workers' union flays fuel price hike

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the context of steep rises in fuel prices, United Food Delivery Partners' Union, has called for a rollback of fuel prices and increase in per-order base pay to match rising fuel costs.

Condemning the government's move to increase the fuel price twice within a week, the union said that gig workers, who are already struggling with unstable earnings, low incentives, rising maintenance costs, and long working hours, are now being forced to bear the additional burden of fuel price hikes.

"Every increase in petrol and diesel prices directly affects the livelihood of lakhs of food delivery partners and other gig and platform workers across the country. While app-based delivery companies continue to expand their business and profits, the workers are being left to absorb the losses," said a statement from the union.

ಹೊಸಪೇಟೆ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಹೊಸಪೇಟೆ.
ಐ.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚಿತ್ತವಾಡ್ಗಿ ಹೊಸಪೇಟೆ–583 201,
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08394–227749
E-mail:hospethuda@gmail.com
No.HUDA/A1/VN.P.D/2025-26 Dated:19.05.2026.

: E-Proc Tender Notification:

As per Karnataka Public Procurement Transperancy Act 1999-2000 and rule 2000 Tender has been invited for the below said Development Works in two cover Sysytem.For further details Contact Commissioner HUDA Hospet.

Name of work: 1.Development of park in Vinayakanagar. **Indent no:** HUDA/2025-26/OW/ Work_INDENT 30. **Est.amount:** RS.100.00 lakhs

2.Development of paver flatform, fixation of childrens play equipments, lightings, sitting benches, water storage tank. **Indent no:** HUDA/2025-26/OW/ Work_INDENT 31. **Est.amount:** RS.50.00 lakhs

3.Development of park in 9th ward. **Indent no:** HUDA/2025-26/OW/ Work_INDENT 35/ CALL-2. **Est.amount:** RS.25.00 lakhs

1.Last date & time for receiving of tenders: **30.05.2026 at 10.30 AM.** 2.Date & time for Opening of Technical Bid: **01.06.2026 at 10.30 AM.** 3.Date & time for Opening of Finanical Bid: **03.06.2026 at 10.50 AM.** 4.Place of opening of Tenders: **HUDA office Hospet**

Sd/- Commissioner
Hospet Urban Deelopment Authority Hospet
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/87

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

25th Anniversary Remembrance

Kainkarya Siromani
S. V. NARASIMHAN
(1923-2001)

Fondly remembered by
SVN Family
Management & Staff of Hauer-Diana Group

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

11th ANNIVERSARY

Mrs.DAMAYANTI RAJADURAI
Retired Professor
V.V.V College for Women,Virudhunagar
Expired on 22.05.2015
Fondly Remembered by:-
Dr.R.Arunmozhimaran M.S.Ortho
& Family

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

In loving memory of
Smt Geetha Venkataraman
(W/o Late Sri. C.H.Venkataraman)
19 Dec 1950 to 22 May 2021
Five years may have passed, but you live on vividly in our hearts, Amma. Your warmth, care, and unwavering strength continue to inspire us every day. We miss you.
Shobha, Shubha, Balaji

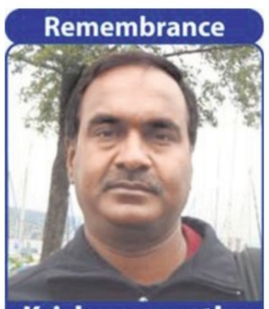
BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

107th BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

T.K. DURAISWAMI
22.05.1919 - 10.07.2012
PRATHAMA ACHARYA PURUSHA, TTD
Retired Senior Accounts Officer, A.G's Office, Madras
Fondly remembered by :
Smt.Vijaya & Sri.N.S. Mohanram
Smt.Vatsala & Sri.V A Raghu
Sri.T.K. Balaji & Smt. Sheela Balaji
Smt.Mala & Sri.S. Ramakrishnan
Brothers, Sister, Brother-in-Law, Sisters-in-Law, Grand Children, Great Grand Children & Great Great Grand Children

REMEMBRANCE

Remembrance



Krishnamoorthy Chandra
Date of death - 22 May 2021
Cherished husband, devoted father, and true friend. Loved by family and friends alike, his presence brought joy and comfort, and his memory will forever remain our guiding star.

P.N. Desai, ex-judge of HC, to head KSHRC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Thursday decided to appoint retired judge P.N. Desai as chairperson of the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission.

A former judge of Karnataka High Court, Mr. Desai probed the alleged land scam in Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) in which the name of Parvathi Siddaramaiah, wife of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, had figured. The final report cleared the Chief Minister's family of any wrongdoing.

A panel comprising Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Chairman of the Legislative Council Basavaraj Horatti, Speaker U.T. Khader, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok, and Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy cleared Mr. Desai's name for the post.

The State government on Thursday decided to withdraw 52 criminal cases, including 10 cases against Vatal Nagaraj at the Halasuru Gate police station in Bengaluru.

Among other cases to be withdrawn are those filed against protesters participating in Cauvery protest, pro-Kannada protest, Kalasa Banduri protest, besides cases filed against farmers and Dalit activists.

The government has decided to withdraw seven cases pertaining to trouble around Ladle Musthaq Dargah issue in Aland. Some of these cases are to be decided in Karnataka High Court.

Meanwhile, as the preparatory work is under way for the Census, a total of 48,275 houses have been found locked by enumerators. They also found 19.26 lakh houses that are lying vacant across the State.

The State Cabinet received a report and held discussions, sources said. The highest number of locked houses was found in Bengaluru Urban with 14,000, and the number of vacant houses was also highest in Bengaluru Urban with 2.45 lakh. The figures were up to May 16.

Police arrested Bageerath, he did not surrender: Revanth

Notices issued in POCSO Act case and inquiry is on, says Telangana Chief Minister; he accuses BRS of doing 'debased politics' over sensitive issues and says its leaders are behaving 'like sadists'

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday clarified that the police had arrested Bandi Bageerath, son of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, and he did not surrender as is being claimed in a case filed under provisions of hte Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act case.

"If Bandi Sanjay Kumar had voluntarily handed over his son to the police, authorities could have completed the process at his residence itself. Police arrested Mr. Bageerath while searching for him," the Chief Minister said.

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy (centre) addressing a press conference in Hyderabad on Thursday. G. RAMAKRISHNA

Addressing a press conference at the State Secretariat in Hyderabad on Thursday, Mr. Reddy said notices were issued to relevant persons and an inquiry was being conducted in the case involving Mr. Bageerath.

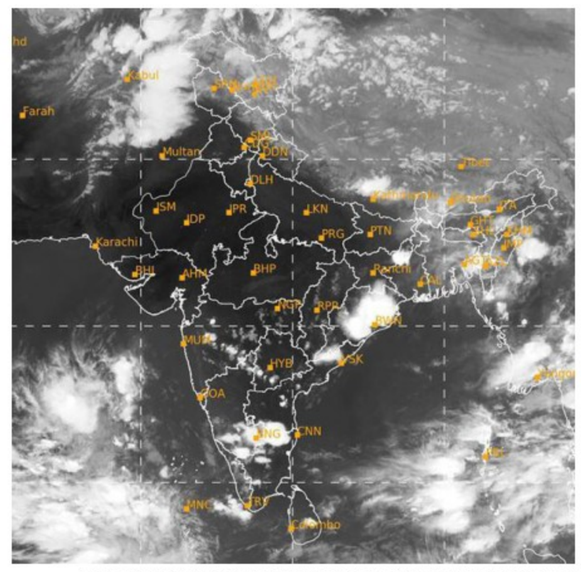
'Debased politics'

Mr. Reddy accused Opposition parties, particularly the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), of engaging in "debased politics" over sensitive issues, including the POCSO Act case and farmers' concerns, while asserting that the police were strictly following legal procedures in all investigations. He alleged that BRS leaders were behaving "like sadists" as though they had achieved something significant in the POCSO Act case. "If they want to do politics, they should defeat us in elections, but should not stoop to such levels," he said.

Mr. Reddy said that notices were served and inquiries conducted after drugs were allegedly found in a farmhouse linked to the brother-in-law of BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Punjab, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Telangana

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.4	27.6	Kozhikode	—	35.2	27.6
Ahmedabad	—	41.7	28.1	Kurnool	—	42.0	29.4
Aizawl	—	32.9	21.4	Lucknow	—	43.6	29.0
Allahabad	—	46.6	29.4	Madurai	—	39.6	26.6
Bengaluru	—	34.8	23.3	Mangaluru	—	32.8	26.3
Bhopal	—	42.0	29.0	Mumbai	—	34.7	28.0
Bhubaneswar	—	42.2	28.8	Mysuru	—	34.0	21.4
Chandigarh	—	44.2	25.7	New Delhi	—	43.6	31.9
Chennai	—	41.6	30.6	Patna	—	40.1	29.6
Coimbatore	—	35.6	25.4	Port Blair	6	31.0	25.9
Dehradun	—	40.2	23.9	Puducherry	—	38.0	28.2
Gangtok	25	20.8	17.2	Pune	—	40.0	25.9
Goa	—	34.4	27.0	Raipur	—	45.0	30.2
Guwahati	—	32.0	26.5	Ranchi	—	38.9	25.0
Hubballi	—	33.0	24.0	Shillong	0.4	24.6	17.4
Hyderabad	—	43.0	29.7	Shimla	—	30.5	20.6
Imphal	—	33.3	20.7	Srinagar	5	23.9	13.0
Jaipur	—	42.0	30.6	Thiruvananthapuram	4	33.3	26.2
Kochi	9	32.6	27.2	Tiruchi	—	40.1	27.4
Kohima	—	27.0	18.0	Vijayawada	—	45.2	30.4
Kolkata	1	36.7	28.0	Visakhapatnam	—	35.6	31.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.30	209	43	61	96	
Bengaluru	9	49	47	—	110	
Chennai	3	16	—	38	356	
Delhi	.12	48	43	226	219	
Hyderabad	.12	15	37	82	85	
Kolkata	.10	28	44	58	58	
Lucknow	8	46	42	165	135	
Mumbai	.29	6	13	91	97	
Pune	—	41	84	23	44	
Visakhapatnam	.22	76	17	54	142	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Charkhi Dadri, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 336 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Over 4.32 lakh have darshan in last five days on Tirumala

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUMALA

Heavy summer crowds continued at the temple of Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala during the week, with over 90,000 pilgrims having darshan on May 16 and 17.

According to temple authorities, more than 4.32 lakh devotees had darshan during the past five days. Over two lakh devotees also underwent head tonsuring at the Kalyanakatta in fulfilment of their prayers with a minimum of over 43,000 devotees on an average in the past three days.

Police launch probe as university students 'dupe' peers over job promise in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
GUNTUR

Two second-year engineering students of SRM University-AP, Amaravati, allegedly duped several fellow students by promising high returns on investments and campus placements in private companies. The police have launched an investigation acting on several complaints in this reagard.

Mangalagiri Rural Police Station SI Chirumamilla Venkateswarlu on Thursday told *The Hindu* that two students, identified as P. Vijay Narasimha and E. Varun Sai, allegedly collected nearly ₹1 crore from their fellow students from the university by promising lucrative returns on investments and employment by the time they completed their four-year engineering courses.

The police said that the duo had reportedly repaid a portion of the money as returns to some students who had initially invested after believing their claims.

Mr. Venkateswarlu said police were verifying the bank accounts of the accused, tracing financial transactions, and gathering more information. A portion of the amount had also been recovered from the accused, he said.

According to the police, the accused were not from affluent backgrounds but allegedly projected themselves as wealthy before their fellow students.

Meanwhile, the university authorities confirmed that it had constituted a disciplinary committee to inquire into the allegations and that an internal investigation was in progress.

The university has so far identified five victims and summoned both the students and their parents for inquiry.

Newly elected MLAs sworn in as Kerala Assembly convenes

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The newly elected legislators of Kerala were formally sworn in as Members of Legislative Assembly (MLA) at the first session of the 16th Kerala Assembly in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, on Thursday. Pro Tem Speaker G. Sudhakaran supervised the proceedings.

Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar had sworn in Mr. Sudhakaran on Wednesday. The remaining 139 members took the oath on Thursday.

Fisheries Minister V.E. Abdul Gafoor, representing the Kalamassery constituency, was the first to take the oath as the names were called in alphabetical order. Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan took the oath in the name of God. Former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan solemnly affirmed his commitment.

The ruling Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) has a massive majority in the House with 102 out of the 140 seats. The Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) has 35 seats and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), three.

The House convened at 9 a.m. with the rendition of the national anthem.

Speaker election

The Speaker will be elected on Friday. The Congress has picked Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan for the Speaker's post and Shanimol Usman for the Deputy Speaker's post. The BJP will field its candidate B.B. Gopakumar in the election for the Speaker's post.

Heatwave continues in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana continued to reel under severe heat wave conditions on Thursday, with temperatures crossing 46 degrees Celsius in 17 districts, according to data from the Telangana Development Planning Society (TGDPS). Dilawarpur in Nirmal district was the hottest with a maximum temperature of 46.5 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, Piduguralla in Palnadu district broke records of the past 10 years by registering 48.1 degrees Celsius on Thursday – a first for the place since 2016.

This is also the second highest temperature to have been recorded in the State since 2016. According to data compiled by the A.P. State Disaster Management Authority, Piduguralla's temperatures remained below 45.5 degrees Celsius between the years 2016 and 2025.

Bharat Coking Coal Limited
(A Mini Ratna Company)
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE

All the tenders issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of **BCCL "www.bcclweb.in"** Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal **"https://coalindiatenders.nic.in"** and Central Public Procurement portal **"https://eprocure.gov.in"** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **"https://gem.gov.in".** This is applicable to all Open (Domestic/Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.

This information is also available on BCCL website www.bcclweb.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Notice is hereby given to Public is hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned schedule property from its owners M/s. NOEL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY PVT LTD. Represented by its Director Mrs. Poppy Dorothy Noel., Residing at: 9/1-1, the Pommels, Bethel Street, 3rd 'A' cross, HRBR 2nd Block, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043.

Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand whatsoever in respect of said property by way of sale, inheritance, bequest, exchange, gift, possession, trust, Mortgage, lease, license, lien, charge, tenancy, lis pendency, development rights, maintenance, easement, or under any agreement of sale or Power of Attorney, option, right of first refusal or pre-emption whatsoever or otherwise howsoever, is hereby required to make the same known in writing with documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the sale transaction shall be completed without any reference to such right, title, interest, claim or demand & the same shall be deemed to have been waived to all intents & purposes. Claims without documentary proofs and/or objections directly published in Newspaper shall not be considered as Valid.

Schedule Property

All that piece and Parcel of the Residential House Property bearing house No. 9/1-1, having BBMP Khata New PID No. 1105438990, Measuring total Site Area is 4000 Sq.ft and buildup area is 8999 Sq.ft (836 Sq.Mtrs), situated at 89173-BETHAL STREET KAMMANAHALLI, 9/2, 3RD a Cross Road, HRBR 2nd Block, Caleekal Social Organisation Kalyan Nagar Bangalore-560043., and bounded on the;

East By: Private Property measuring on that side 23.65 Mtrs or 77 feet 7 inches

West By : Remaining portion of the same property retained by the Vendor, measuring on that side 25.9 Mtrs or 91 feet 10 inches. **North By :** BDA Road measuring on that side 15.13 meters or 49 feet 8 inches. **South By :** Bethel Street measuring on that side 14.98 Mtrs or 49 feet 12 inches

HANUMANTH R., ADVOCATE
Mobile: 9620697201

Sri. PRAVEEN KUMAR RODDAM
S/o Surendra Babu Roddam
Residing at #A-1002, 10th Floor
Bairavi Cruz Laxury Apartment
Chelekeri Main Road,
Opp: to St. Rocks church,
Kalyan Nagar,Bangalore-560043
Mobile: 95381 00008

Date : 21.05.2026
Place : Bengaluru

Government of Karnataka.
(PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DEPTARTMENT)
Office of the Executive Engineer P.R.E. Division Bidar.

No: EE/PRED/BDR/TS-2/2026-27/219 Date: 19.05.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division Bidar invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers, for 12 works approved under various schemes as per KW-01, 02, & 03 in One & Two Cover System. Amount put to tender for the works are Minimum **Rs.4,20,229.70** (Rupees Four Lakhs Twenty Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Nine and paise Seventy only) & Maximum **Rs.84,11,311.08** (Rupees Eighty Four Lakhs Eleven Thousand Three Hundred Eleven and paise eight only) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz. http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Tenders must be submitted through KPPP portal on 20.05.2026 to or before 16.00 hours up to 30.05.2026 Technical Bid will be opened on 01.06.2026 & Financial Bid will be opened on 04.06.2026 respectively. Further any other information can be seen from the KPPP portal or can be had from the undersigned.
(Work Indent No:- 26272, 26710, 26694, 26590, 26760, 26738, 26695, 26700, 26701, 26696, 26699 & 26796).

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E.Division Bidar.

DIPR/Bidar/36/KSMC&A/2026-27

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-15/1338/2026-27 Date: 21.05.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the work of :

Name of the Work : Construction of CC Road & RCC Drain at Road No. 1, 8 & 8A and Improvement of Road No.2 & 3 at Doddaballapura Industrial Area, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **05.06.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/777/ZEN/2026-27

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಟಿ. ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಾರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560 020.

ನಂ:ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ/ಆಯು/e-221654/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:21.05.2026

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಬ್ಯುಸಿನೆಸ್ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್ (ಪಿಆರ್‌ಆರ್–1) ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರಾತ್ಮಕವಾಗಿ ಹೊಸ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯ ತತ್ವಗಳನ್ವಾಧರಿಸಿ ದರ ನಿಗದಿ ಸಮಿತಿಯ (ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ನಿರ್ಣಯದಂತೆ) ಸಂಧಾನಿಕ ಮೊತ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ 0–20 ಗುಂಟೆ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟವರಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರಗಳ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

1. ಸಂಧಾನಿತ ಮೊತ್ತ ಅಥವಾ
2. ಟಿ.ಡಿ.ಆರ್. ಅಥವಾ
3. ಮಹಡಿ ಪರಿಹಾರ (ಎಫ್.ಎ.ಆರ್) ಅಥವಾ
4. ನಗದು ಪರಿಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಮನಾದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ವಸತಿ ನಿವೇಶನ ಅಥವಾ
5. 35:65 ಅನುಪಾತದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು (ಪ್ರತಿ ಎಕರೆಗೆ 8385 ಚ.ಅಡಿ)

ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು ಮೇಲಿನ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರು ಒಂದು ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರವನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ನಅಇ/168/ಎಂಎನ್‌ಎಕ್ಸ್/2024(ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ:17.10.2025ರಂತೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಆದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಮುಂದುವರೆದು, ಅಧಿಸೂಚಿತ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಪೈಕಿ 948 ಎಕರೆ 18.5 ಗುಂಟೆ ಜಮೀನಿಗೆ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ 1894 ರ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯನ್ವಯ ಐತೀರ್ಪು ಅನುಮೋದಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರುಗಳ ಕೋರಿಕೆಯ ಮೇರೆಗೆ, ಹಳೆಯ ಐತೀರ್ಪು ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಧಾನಿತ ಮೊತ್ತದ ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಎಕ್ಸ್‌ಗ್ರೇಷಿಯಾ ನೀಡಲು ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ನಅಇ/168/ಎಂಎನ್‌ಎಕ್ಸ್/2024(ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.01.2026ರಂತೆ ಅವಕಾಶವನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿರುವುದರಿಂದ, ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಐತೀರ್ಪು ಮೊತ್ತಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳಿದ್ದು, ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು ಈ ಅವಕಾಶವನ್ನು ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಘನ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಆದೇಶಗಳನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪಿ ಇದುವರೆಗೆ 543 ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು ತಮ್ಮ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಭೂ ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ಅವರ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯ ಸಂಧಾನಿತ ಮೊತ್ತ/ಎಕ್ಸ್‌ಗ್ರೇಷಿಯಾ ಮೊತ್ತ/ಇತರೆ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರವನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. 73.00 ಕಿ.ಮೀ. ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಜನದಟ್ಟಣೆ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಿಸುವ ಮಹತ್ವಾಕಾಂಕ್ಷಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಾದ ಪಿ.ಆರ್.ಆರ್–1 ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಭೂಮಿಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಿರುವ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರ ಸಹಕಾರವನ್ನು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಬ್ಯುಸಿನೆಸ್ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಶ್ಲಾಘಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಉದ್ದೇಶಿತ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಶೀಘ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಸುಲಲಿತವಾಗಿ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ, ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭೂಮಿಯನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿರುವ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ಪರಿಹಾರ ರೂಪದ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಿ, ಸರ್ಕಾರವು/ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಸಮಯಾಕಾಶವನ್ನು ಸಹ ಒದಗಿಸಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ಎಕ್ಸ್‌ಗ್ರೇಷಿಯಾ ರೂಪದ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಆದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿನ ವಿವಿಧ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರುಗಳಿಗೆ/ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತರುಗಳಿಗೆ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ/ಭಿತ್ತಿಚಿತ್ರಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ನೀಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಸದರಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿವಿಧ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಐತಿಹಾಸಿಕ ನಿರ್ಣಯವನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಈ ರೀತಿಯ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಮಯ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರದ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಿರುವ ಉದಾಹರಣೆಯಿಲ್ಲ.

ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ, ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಕಾಲಾವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಕಾಲಾವಕಾಶ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡುವ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಉದ್ದೇಶಿತ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತರು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಆದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಅವಕಾಶದಂತೆ ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರದ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಒಂದು ಭೂಪರಿಹಾರವನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು, ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲಿಖಿತ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ಖುದ್ದು ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಆಯಾ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿಕೊಡುವಂತೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಶಾಖೆ	ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸ
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5	ಬಿಬಿಸಿ–5	slaoprr05@gmail.com
6	ಬಿಬಿಸಿ–6	bdaslaobbc6@gmail.com
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Caste away

People must have the option to state they are casteless in the Census

The Supreme Court was not wrong to dismiss a petition that sought to stall the caste census, which is part of the ongoing Census 2027. The Chief Justice of India remarked, in support of the caste count, that "any government of the day must know how many people are backward and how many need welfare". In April 2025, the Narendra Modi government had made a turnaround to announce caste enumeration alongside the fresh census, the first such exercise since 1931. Mr. Modi had earlier derided the idea as a sign of "urban Naxal" thinking, and the RSS had warned that such surveys were attempts to fracture Hindu society. The Congress, too, had made a dramatic turnaround in its historical position to demand a caste census. Early governments of independent India decided not to enumerate caste with the census. The dominant thinking then was that counting caste communities would only reinforce the institution of caste that the state wanted to dismantle. On the one hand, state policies sought to create a casteless society, while on the other, they also accounted for caste identities for positive discrimination in legislative representation and employment. This dual approach to caste that was baked into the nation's founding principles has created a paradox that continues to this day. The clamour for a caste census is the latest manifestation of it.

The Census itself has been long overdue. The decennial population survey was originally due in 2021 but was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic and logistical hurdles. The caste enumeration will take place in the second phase and will involve asking every individual their caste, rather than merely recording whether they belong to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, as in previous Censuses. The delay in the Census has a bearing on planning of all sorts. In India, a considerable portion of state policy is directly or indirectly linked to the caste profile of the target group. The one attempt at a post-Independence national caste count came in 2011. The open-ended caste identification process of the Socio-Economic and Caste Census produced over 46 lakh distinct caste names and 8 crore data errors, rendering the dataset unusable. Most of its findings remain unpublished. The Modi government is still grappling with the challenge of finding the appropriate methodology for an accurate enumeration of caste communities. A caste census detracts from the effort to eradicate caste as it ossifies identities, but is helpful if viewed alongside other socioeconomic indices to better target welfare measures and ensure representation. The annihilation of caste must remain a goal, and people must be allowed to classify themselves as casteless if they so wish.

Bat for the better

Courts must treat tax exemptions to the BCCI as a form of state grant

The RTI Act was originally designed to scrutinise the state, a limit that the BCCI has repeatedly tested thanks to its outsized power. The BCCI is a private body that operates commercially and lacks direct public financing. RTI disclosures could expose competitive information and compromise the flexibility required to govern a sport, especially since the BCCI already has anti-corruption measures and comes under judicial review if required. If the BCCI is brought under the Act's remit, there is also a risk of political forces abusing transparency requirements to exert greater influence on cricket administration. Even so, the Central Information Commission's (CIC) recent decision to exclude the BCCI from the RTI Act is unlikely to go uncontested because the body has also monopolised a national sport. The BCCI benefits from national symbolism, police deployment at matches, concessional land allotments, and State hospitality; uses public stadium infrastructure; enjoys the regulatory privileges accruing to its monopoly status; and negotiates with foreign boards in ways that sometimes overlap with diplomacy. These liberties have thus sustained civil society concerns about being unable to scrutinise its conflicts of interest and governance arrangements.

Under Section 2(h) of the RTI Act, the BCCI is not a constitutional or statutory body and was not created by government notification, leaving the matter to turn on whether it can be said to be under state control or financing. Following disputes in 2005 and 2013, the Supreme Court repeatedly said in 2015-16, when the BCCI was adopting the Lodha committee recommendations, that it performs public duties. The Law Commission furthered this position in 2018 because, it added, the BCCI also serves as a National Sports Federation without the Sports Ministry recognising it as one and received tax exemptions worth ₹2,100 crore in 1997-2007 alone, a figure the Commission interpreted as foregone state revenue. Subsequently, former Information Commissioner Sridhar Acharyulu ruled the BCCI to be a public authority under Section 2(h). The Madras High Court stayed the order, and the CIC has now reversed the ruling. The CIC has admitted that the BCCI exerts a significant influence on public life while insisting that its decision is based on Section 2(h) alone. There is a contradiction between writ jurisdiction applying to the BCCI – as the Court affirmed in 2015 – even as the body is private enough to conceal its internal records. At this time, Section 2(h) should be amended to include any body discharging public duties, especially with monopoly power, perhaps by creating a category that simultaneously protects the BCCI's commercial interests. Courts must also treat tax exemptions as a form of state grant.

Ladakh seeks belonging through representation

Gitanjali J. Angmo

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It is both sad and ironic that the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India argues that Ladakh needs more districts rather than a legislature or stronger constitutional safeguards under the Sixth Schedule. It contends that Ladakh's sparse population, strategic sensitivity and financial dependence on the Centre make a legislature unnecessary, and instead offers administrative decentralisation through additional districts as a practical alternative.

This argument is fundamentally flawed and reflects an impoverished understanding of democracy. Not long ago, the British Empire claimed that Indians lacked the maturity and institutional capacity for self-rule – that Indians were too poor, illiterate and divided to govern themselves. It was against such paternalism that Sri Aurobindo championed the idea of Purna Swaraj, or absolute self-governance, as a matter of dignity and national selfhood. History proved the British wrong.

Yet, close to 80 years after Independence, the argument that Ladakh should be content with districts instead of a legislature echoes the same colonial logic in the language of nationalism. Must Ladakhis still prove they are sufficiently populous, profitable and capable enough to deserve political representation? Does being geographically vast, sparsely populated and strategically sensitive disqualify a region from having a legislature?

The recent announcement of five additional districts in Ladakh – Nubra, Changthang, Sham, Zanskar and Drass – has been celebrated as a major governance reform. Certainly, administrative accessibility matters in a region spread across nearly 59,000 square kilometres of high-altitude terrain. Villages separated by mountain passes and harsh winters do require local administrative presence.

But handing out districts is not democracy. Districts cannot legislate on land protection, demographic safeguards, ecological preservation, employment priorities, cultural autonomy, renewable energy negotiations, education policy or the long-term developmental vision of the region. Districts are instruments of administration. Legislatures are instruments of representation. A district magistrate implements policy. A legislature shapes the future of a people. A district reports upward to the bureaucracy. A legislature answers downward to citizens. No amount of administrative decentralisation and convenience can substitute for political agency.

Expendable electoral promises

The most troubling aspect of the present discourse is that the Government of India itself repeatedly promised constitutional safeguards to Ladakh. After the abrogation of Article 370 and the creation of the Union Territory in 2019, assurances regarding Sixth Schedule protections were publicly articulated by leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party and reflected in their election manifestoes for the MP and Hill Council elections in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

> Ladakh's democratic aspirations cannot be reduced to the administrative convenience of districts

Yet, once the elections were over, and the party won based on these very manifestos, it went back on its commitments, raising ethical questions: Can promises made to frontier populations become expendable after elections?

The case of the northeast

What of the objections themselves? Take the first one – that Ladakh is too strategic a border to be trusted with self-government. Arunachal Pradesh shares one of India's most sensitive borders with China. It is geographically vast, sparsely populated, strategically critical and financially dependent on the Centre. Yet, when it was granted full statehood in 1987, its strategic location was not viewed as a security risk, but as a strategic necessity. India understood that border populations cannot be held merely through bureaucratic administration or military presence. The people who feel politically enfranchised and constitutionally respected defend a nation more fiercely than people who merely live inside its lines. If strategic sensitivity was an argument for empowerment in one Himalayan frontier, by what logic does it become an argument against it in another?

The same applies to much of the Northeast. When Nagaland was granted statehood in 1963, its population was barely around 3.5 lakh. Mizoram became a State in 1987 with a population of roughly five lakh. Sikkim entered the Indian Union as a state in 1975 with a population of barely two lakh. Arunachal Pradesh itself had roughly six lakh people at the time of statehood. None of these States was financially self-sufficient. Many remain substantially dependent on central transfers even today. India did not tell them that they were too small, or too poor, or too remote for a legislature. It understood that you do not integrate a frontier through subsidy and garrison alone. You integrate it through belonging.

Which brings us to the fiscal objection – the weakest of the three. Ladakh, we are told, cannot cannot generate enough revenue to sustain itself. But since when has fiscal solvency become the price of admission to Indian democracy? India's federal structure is built on redistribution; the Finance Commission exists precisely because some States earn more than others and the Union shares it out. Even large States depend heavily on central devolution.

Uttar Pradesh, the most populous State, draws enormous sums from the Centre through tax devolution, central schemes and grants-in-aid. Bihar, Assam and several Northeastern States also rely heavily on central transfers (between 70% and 90% of their expenditure) to bridge developmental gaps.

In many of these States, mountainous terrain, sparse populations and strategic constraints limit conventional revenue generation. Yet, no one would argue that Uttar Pradesh should surrender its legislature because it depends on central funds. The suggestion would be absurd. Democracy in India has never been a reward for profitability – and if it were, much of the country would fail the test.

Ladakh needs its own voice

And Ladakhis are worth hearing – especially when the same establishment that calls Ladakh economically negligible is planning some of India's largest energy infrastructure projects on its land. The renewable energy project in the Pang region of Changthang is expected to generate nearly 13 gigawatts of power, spread across acres of high-altitude pastureland. With investments of around ₹50,000 crore and and a potential of ₹7,000 crore of annual income, this is hardly the arithmetic of an insignificant region. It is the arithmetic of a region that is central to India's energy future.

Ladakhis are increasingly watching decisions being made on solar parks, transmission corridors, mining, tourism expansion and land use. The real question, then, is who negotiates the terms of this transformation. Who decides land rights, grazing rights for Changpa herders, ecological limits, local jobs, royalties and inter-generational sustainability? A district officer cannot answer these questions. Nor was he ever meant to. That is the role of a legislature – made up of representatives accountable to the people whose lives are being shaped by these decisions.

This is what the argument ultimately comes down to. India's greatness was never administrative tidiness, but the constitutional imagination to hold staggering difference within one Union without flattening it. That same imagination produced the Sixth Schedule, recognising that fragile and distinct frontier regions need protections the plains do not. Uniformity is not equity. And Ladakh is not asking to belong to India less; it is asking to belong more fully – not as a territory administered from afar, but as a people shaping their own future. That distinction matters.

Sri Aurobindo wrote that freedom is the necessary atmosphere for a nation's soul to grow. India's spirit has often been strongest at its edges – in places that chose Bharat and defended it through hardship and sacrifice without asking what it cost. The strength of a republic is not measured by how tightly it controls its frontiers, but by how deeply even its farthest regions feel they belong. The voice rising from Ladakh today is not a demand for privilege, but a quiet appeal to be trusted with its own future.

Regulation, not bans, can protect online gamers

Karti P. Chidambaram

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The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, was passed with the objective to "protect individuals, especially youth and vulnerable populations, from the adverse social, economic, psychological and privacy-related impacts" of online games involving money. As growing evidence of their impact emerges, it is becoming increasingly clear that the Act is proving counterproductive. Early studies suggest that the use of offshore online betting and gambling platforms has risen since the ban. Following the implementation of the PROG Act in October 2025, users quickly shifted from regulated domestic websites to illegal offshore platforms.

Rise in offshore platform use

An even more worrying consequence is that these platforms not only circumvent domestic laws but may also become channels for money laundering and terror financing. Several reports and surveys conducted after the ban suggest that offshore platform usage has risen sharply. A study by CUTS International found a significant increase in offshore participation after the implementation of the PROG Act – from 68.3% to 82% in Delhi NCR, 67.8% to 83% in Tamil Nadu, and 66.7% to 91.7% in Maharashtra.

In Tamil Nadu, 67.8% of users reported using offshore platforms before the ban, often alongside domestic real-money gaming platforms. After the ban, this rose to 83%, involving the use of offshore platforms, marking an increase of 15.2 percentage points. This increase reflects a net behavioural shift of 15.2% toward offshore platforms, driven by a larger number of respondents starting offshore use after implementation of the PROG Act than those discontinuing it.

This is not a new phenomenon. Across industries, paternalistic bans rarely change consumer behaviour; they merely push users toward underground and more volatile channels.

> The implementation of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, is proving counter productive

Products which are not physical in nature face an even deeper challenge, as users can quickly shift through VPNs and private links, making effective regulation and consumer protection far more difficult.

A case for strong regulation

In the recently concluded Budget parliamentary session, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology reported to the Lok Sabha that the Centre had blocked 8,376 URLs to combat the financial irregularities and cybercrime havoc being caused by illegal offshore betting networks. Despite this, media reports continue to allude to suicides linked to illegal online betting traps even after the ban. It is therefore crucial to recognise the scale of the problem and reconsider whether strong regulation may be more effective than an outright ban.

Illegal operators use technologically advanced evasion tactics, including virtual private networks (VPN), proxy servers and encrypted platforms such as WhatsApp and Telegram, to ensure seamless access and transactions. By the time authorities block one domain, users are often shifted to mirror sites with little disruption. The widespread use of VPNs also masks user locations, weakening geographic restrictions.

When users shift to offshore platforms, domestic authorities face significant limitations in ensuring consumer protection and grievance redress. The easy accessibility of offshore online gambling platforms to Indian users is therefore a serious public concern.

A recent inter-State online gambling and fraud racket that came to light in my constituency in Tamil Nadu – Sivaganga – in February this year involved a fraudulent "Old Coin Purchase Task" promoted on Telegram, in which the accused lured victims into investing money in fake old-coin bidding schemes by promising high returns. They also procured "mule accounts" by persuading villagers in Sivaganga, Paramakudi and Kalayarkovil to open bank accounts in exchange for small payments, which were then used to divert the proceeds of the crime.

Examples from overseas

Looking at other jurisdictions offers useful perspectives on responding to the rise of offshore platforms. The United Arab Emirates, despite its long-standing prohibition, moved in 2023 to establish a tightly controlled federal licensing framework with strict compliance requirements, deposit limits and harm-prevention safeguards, partly to address the risks posed by unregulated offshore activity. Sri Lanka is now moving in a similar direction, with a centralised Gambling Regulatory Authority expected to become operational by June 2026 to consolidate oversight and bring offshore online activity within a clear domestic framework.

The emerging lesson is that the real policy choice is rarely between permitting and banning. It is between creating a regulated domestic framework with accountability and consumer safeguards, or allowing the space to be dominated by offshore operators beyond domestic oversight. Addressing this menace requires sustained coordination between the Centre and State governments. As the evidence suggests, a blanket ban is unlikely to work in the long run. Instead, policymakers should reconsider and test a regulated framework within a controlled environment.

This would enable policymakers to better understand and address the challenges posed by offshore operators, while also generating tax revenue from a regulated ecosystem. These revenues could then be reinvested in strengthening offshore monitoring and enforcement mechanisms, as well as funding player-awareness campaigns – an approach adopted successfully in several western countries.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Court on caste count

The Supreme Court of India has said that "any government needs to know how many people are backward and need welfare". But the Court assumes, like most people, that caste indicates the living standards of its people. It is a fact that every caste, from the supposedly 'highest' to the supposedly 'lowest', has the very wealthy to the very poor. The caste census will only help the politicians at election time, not help the government find who needs economical assistance. The Court seems to be cleverly, but unwisely, backing the government's caste census, saying that the government needs to know who is rich and who is poor (Front page, "SC says nothing wrong in caste count, rejects plea against move", May 21).

The government should devise a scheme by which it finds people living below the poverty line, irrespective of caste, religion, region and language. And help them.

Manuel Aaron,
Chennai

'Melody' moment

The gesture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifting a packet of 'Melody' chocolates to Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni seems to have gone contagiously viral on social media and grabbed much attention.

It was fortuitous that the names blended so well. While a packet of eye-catching and mouth-watering 'Melody' may have made the Italian leader happy, it is hard to quantify how much it has contributed to strengthening, as against 'sweetening', relations between the two countries. Leaders too are human like the rest of us and they are quite within their rights to give a personal touch to their diplomatic encounters if they choose to (Front page, May 21). However, it becomes farcical when it is done to make reels for the consumption of supporters.

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Should the NEET-UG be decentralised?

Dr. G.R. Ravindranath

Founder and General Secretary, Doctors' Association for Social Equality.

Balaji Sampath

Founder, AhaGuru

PARLEY

The cancellation and retest of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG), 2026 has exposed deep cracks in India's examination system. Allegations of paper leaks, corruption and repeated lapses by the National Testing Agency (NTA) has pushed lakhs of aspirants into uncertainty, stress and emotional exhaustion. This has led to many asking whether such a high-stakes, single day, single shift, national exam for admission to all medical courses in India should be decentralised. Dr. G.R. Ravindranath and Balaji Sampath discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Bindu Shajan Perappadan**. Edited excerpts:

Since its inception in 2013, the NEET has been marred by controversies. What was envisioned as a transparent and uniform entrance exam has instead become synonymous with administrative lapses. Is the answer then to decentralise the exam?

G.R. Ravindranath: NEET has reduced the burden of multiple medical entrance exams and lowered students' financial, mental and physical stress. Unlike Plus Two cut-off admissions, NEET offers multiple attempts, giving students another chance to improve. However, rural, poor and government school students remain disadvantaged due to unequal access to coaching and resources. Measures such as special reservations, fee support scholarships, additional marks, and free coaching classes for government school students can ensure equitable opportunities. Tamil Nadu's 7.5% reservation for government school students can serve as a model for nationwide reforms to make NEET fairer and more inclusive. States should be allowed to conduct their own entrance exams and admit students in order to ensure that students from vulnerable socio-economic sections are not put at a disadvantage.

Balaji Sampath: Single window exams such as NEET have only increased the pressure on students because it affords them only a single chance – one time a year to get into various medical courses across India.

Moreover, NEET is both an entrance and eligibility test. Entrance for government seats and eligibility for management seats in private medical colleges. When the Supreme Court made NEET compulsory, the private college lobby pushed for keeping the qualifying marks really low (at 50th percentile which is around 120 to 140 marks out of 720). So a student who scores 130, qualifies NEET and is eligible to buy a management seat. However, poor and middle class students who score 400 are unable to pay and get these management seats. Given that there are only 1.37 lakhs seats and 22 lakhs students writing NEET, the cut-off should be kept much higher. This will ensure that rich students who score 130-350 do not pay and steal the seats of those who get much higher scores.

Students' organisations stage a protest against the NTA following the cancellation of the NEET-UG, in New Delhi on May 14. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Why is the NEET exam marred by repeated allegations about paper leaks?

BS: To understand the vulnerability of the exam, we have to understand the scale that the paper targets. This pen-and-paper exam has 22 lakh students who compete for less than two lakh seats across all medical courses. The problem originates here and gets accentuated by dropper students who have money power; they are people who are ready to pay ₹30 lakh to get a guess paper. One has to understand that this corruption is driven by money power and desperation. In its current form, NEET has become an intensely high-stakes exam. Over half the candidates are repeaters, some attempting it for years, deepening desperation and fuelling paper leaks and corruption. Limiting attempts, while offering extra chances and reservations for disadvantaged students, could reduce pressure and improve fairness. A two-stage examination system, as recommended by the K. Radhakrishnan Committee – set up by the Central government after allegations of corruption in the NEET 2024 paper – could reduce incentives for cheating by filtering candidates through a preliminary qualifier before a more tightly monitored final exam.

GRR: The lack of effective regulation over private medical colleges and the fees of deemed medical universities has significantly deepened inequities in admissions. Under the National Medical Commission Act, fee regulation applies only to 50% of seats, while private colleges are free to fix exorbitant fees for the remaining seats, making medical education inaccessible to many deserving students. Although anti-capitation laws exist, enforcement remains weak and requires urgent strengthening. The mop-up counselling and stray counselling conducted by private colleges and deemed universities pave the way for malpractice and eliminates merit based admissions. State government-controlled and Union government-controlled seats should be filled by the respective government authorities. Private institutions should not be allowed to admit students directly.

> The pressure surrounding medical education is shaped by strong socio-economic and cultural factors, making NEET a far more high-stakes examination
> **DR. G.R. RAVINDRANATH**

Also, medical admissions cannot be compared with engineering admissions, where vacancies remain high due to unemployment and declining demand. The pressure surrounding medical education is shaped by strong socio-economic and cultural factors, making NEET a far more high-stakes exam.

States should be granted greater autonomy in admissions through amendments to the National Medical Commission Act. States willing to opt out of NEET should be allowed to adopt systems based on Plus Two marks, State-level entrance tests, or a combination of both. Further reforms are necessary to reduce excessive competition. These include limiting the number of NEET attempts, introducing age limits, and fixing minimum eligibility marks at 60% in science subjects in Class 12th examinations for open quota and OBC students, and 50% for SC/ST students applying for NEET.

At the same time, NEET should continue for all-India quota seats, AIIMS, JIPMER, deemed universities, and management quota seats of private medical colleges. For these seats, admissions cannot be made on the basis of Plus Two marks or any State government exam because, for these seats, students from all over the country, as well as NRIs, overseas citizens of India and foreign nationals can also apply.

After the 2024 NEET paper leak controversy, the K. Radhakrishnan Committee identified major security lapses, including poor CCTV monitoring and excessive reliance on contractual staff within the NTA. Why has the government not fully implemented the Committee's recommendations?

BS: The NTA did not implement most of the important recommendations of the Radhakrishnan committee. The Committee's recommendations can be categorised into three types: improving NTA's capacity, strengthening security measures such as CCTV surveillance and safer paper transport, and most importantly, reducing the high-stakes nature of NEET itself. The third category is particularly important, but nothing was done about it. The most important recommendation was to conduct NEET in two stages. The first stage, the prelims, can select five lakh students out of the 22 lakhs and these five lakh students can then write the main NEET exam which will be used for medical college admission. This will dramatically reduce paper leaks. The second major recommendation was to limit the number of attempts. This will reduce the number of repeaters who in their desperation are often ready to pay large amounts for leaked papers. To ensure equity, two more attempts can be allowed for SC/ST and BPL (Below Poverty Line) students. The NTA did not implement any of these recommendations.

GRR: Among the several suggestions of the Committee, one of the most important was a computer based test which was never implemented. Also, that coaching centres across India should be registered, regulated and that fees should be fixed. Our association opposed demands to abolish NEET entirely, arguing that doing so would revive multiple entrance exams.

With lakhs of students now forced to retake NEET, many families have been pushed into severe emotional and financial distress. Both of you have been directly in touch with the aggrieved side, how do they view these repeated large-scale disruptions?

GRR: Although the authorities have now announced a NEET re-examination on June 21, the initial cancellation created enormous uncertainty and emotional distress among students.

It has created widespread anger, disappointment and a growing loss of confidence in the impartiality and credibility of national competitive examinations, leaving students feeling uncertain about their future. The Union government and the NTA should take the responsibility for the question paper leakage. In future such things should not recur.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

On measuring freedom of the press in India

International rankings are neither absolute nor worthless. They can be useful for gauging patterns but are unreliable as precise judgements

Varghese K. George

A patient complaining of pain can be asked to quantify it on a scale of 10 – a practice common in the West but still rare in India. There are experts who "aim to deeply investigate happiness measurement through biomedical signals, using psychophysiological methods to objectify the happiness experience." Objective, universal facts are supposed to be the basis of management and governance.

The Norwegian journalist who wanted to ask Prime Minister Narendra Modi a question prefaced it by saying that her country had the freest press in the world, citing the World Press Freedom Index prepared annually by Reporters Without Borders. Press freedom, and even democracy, can apparently be ranked. India is ranked 157 in the World Press Freedom Index. Ukraine is at 55, Qatar at 75, Burkina Faso at 110, Oman at 127, Kuwait at 136 – countries some of which do not even hold a pro forma election rank higher on press freedom than India, according to this report.

Norway is number one. But what the ranking does not take into account is the unfiltered racism of an apparently free press – such as a Norwegian mainstream newspaper that portrayed Mr. Modi as a snake charmer, an age-old trope to depict India. The rankers have themselves clarified that the quality of journalism is not a criterion. The racism of the freest press does not affect its standing.

Mr. Modi has not addressed a press conference as Prime Minister. After a joint appearance with U.S. President Donald J. Trump, he took a couple of questions in February 2025. Mr. Trump, for his part, routinely seeks out confrontational interviews to make his point, while simultaneously seeking to delegitimise the media. Press conferences and probing interviews have become rare across India's leadership. No leader wants to take questions – whether in the legislature or the media. Political communication has become a one-way street in which the principal actor broadcasts without the inconvenience of being contested – that applies as much to several Opposition leaders as well.

The contestations within the media space are often a reflection of society, and state control of the media is an extension of the control the state seeks to enforce across other domains of people's lives – movement, thinking, learning, and the mingling of populations. In Norway, the media, the society and the state share broadly the same consensus. Of its 55 lakh people, 95 per cent speak Norwegian and 60 per cent are affiliated to the Church of Norway. A largely homogenous country where the media does not require to contest the state is not comparable to a large, diverse country riven by conflicting viewpoints about everything, and where the state is simultaneously trying to control the thinking of its people. Political contestation in such a society produces a multitude of media narratives – and a multitude of pressures.

That said, those who seek to dismiss Western standards as irrelevant are curiously selective in their approach. They would dismiss the Press Freedom Index but in the same breath celebrate some random ranking on Ease of Doing Business, or a foreign country's national honour conferred on their leader. The convenience of the dismissal gives it away. Rankings exist. They are often methodologically dubious, frequently corrupted by subjective factors and sometimes by outright prejudice. No global ranking is required to establish that the Indian media is under severe stress – from market forces and from state measures alike. Equally, no amount of fine print can sustain the argument that Kuwait belongs far above India on any honest measure of press freedom. The index's own methodology undermines its own conclusions at the extremes.

The better argument is not that rankings are worthless but that they are blunt instruments – useful for identifying broad patterns, unreliable as precise judgements.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Keeping one's head above water

A quick dip: As temperature in the city soars, Royal Bengal Tiger 'Jay' takes a dip inside a water pond in the Tiger exhibit of the Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Botanical Garden and Zoo in Mumbai on May 21. The prolonged heatwave conditions across the country, particularly in Maharashtra, has led to multiple cases of heatstroke. EMMANUAL YOGINI

FROM THE ARCHIVES — The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 22, 1976

Hindi as Supreme Court language under study

New Delhi, May 21: The Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr. Om Mehta informed the Rajya Sabha to-day that the Parliamentary Committee was considering among other things, the question of introduction of Hindi in the Supreme Court.

He was intervening in the discussion on a non-official Bill, seeking to amend Article 348 of the Constitution, to provide for the use of Hindi along with English in the Supreme Court and High Courts for delivering judgments.

The Bill was withdrawn by its sponsor, Mr. O. P. Tyagi (JS) following the Minister's reply.

The Minister listed the progress that Hindi had made as official language. He said three lakh Government employees had been trained in Hindi. Of them, about 17,000 were typists and 4,000 stenographers.

He made it clear that there was no question of Hindi being imposed on anybody. Efforts were being made to ensure the development of regional languages along with Hindi.

Members supported in principle a non-official Bill seeking to amend Article 348 of the Constitution to provide for the use of Hindi along with English in the Supreme Court and High Courts for delivering judgments.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 22, 1926

Origin of all disease

A new and revolutionary theory of bacillar disease was just put forward before the French Academy of Science in a paper by Professor Tissot. Indeed it is rather a theory of organic life itself, animal and vegetable, too difficult and complex to transmit in a brief telegram, but which is summed up in the expression: "Everything that lives is simply an organised mould" – that is to say, a mould as we meet it in uncovered decaying organic matter, the cryptogamic material which, according to Professor Tissot, is the very basis of life.

From Page One

Ebola crisis: India-Africa summit postponed

There were several other Africa-related events to be hosted by the Indian Council of World Affairs and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations that have been cancelled, though some African delegates have arrived in New Delhi for these events.

New dates for the summit and its associated meetings "will be finalised through mutual consultations and communicated in due course," the MEA said. The cancellation of the summit is being viewed as a setback to India-Africa ties, though officials insisted that the decision was taken in the best interest of all stakeholders. India expressed "solidarity with the peoples and Governments of Africa" and pledged to help them in dealing with the crisis with an "Africa-led" approach.

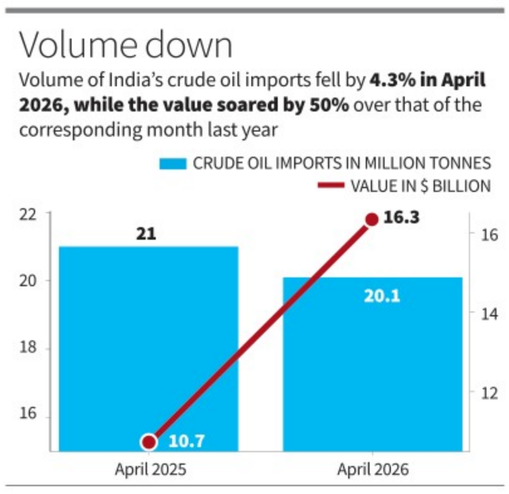
The fourth India-Africa Forum Summit was planned to be held between May 28 and 31, after a gap of nearly 11 years. Former Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia, Gurjit Singh, expressed confidence that the summit would be held once the latest health emergency stabilises in Africa. He pointed out that the third India-Africa Forum Summit was scheduled to be held in 2014 but had to be similarly postponed by a year, because of the outbreak of the Ebola virus in western Africa in 2014.

Health advisory

India has issued a health advisory for passengers arriving from or transiting through Ebola-affected countries, asking those with symptoms or exposure history to report to airport health authorities before immigration clearance. The Directorate General of Health Services' advisory specifically mentions travellers from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and South Sudan, all of which have been categorised as "high-risk countries" by the World Health Organisation.

(With PTI inputs)

India's crude oil imports decline, but bill goes up



Sales of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), including domestic and non-domestic and auto LPG, by public sector oil firms dipped by 12.7% on a year-on-year basis to about 2.2 mt. During the conflict, the government has allocated commercial establishments 70% of the LPG they were using before the crisis.

As for natural gas, the country consumed 4,703 million standard cubic metres (MMSCM) of natural gas in April, which was 16.7% lower than that in the corresponding month last year.

Likely as a result of this lower consumption, India imported 1,954 MMSCM of LNG in April, down from 2,778 MMSCM in April last year. In value terms, the LNG import bill fell one-fourth from $1.2 billion to $0.9 billion during the reported period.

India's import dependence on natural gas declined to 41.6% in April this year from 49.2% in month last year.

The net production of natural gas, which accounts for the quantum lost due to flaring and for other reasons, dipped by 4.2% on a year-on-year basis to 2,749 MMSCM.

SC gives clarity on holding sedition trials

In an interim order issued on May 11, 2022, the top court had put on hold trials in sedition cases pending before courts until the government completed its promised exercise "to re-examine and re-consider" the colonial-era provision.

The court had also made it clear that it "hopes and expects" the Centre and States to refrain from registering FIRs, continuing investigations, or taking coercive measures under Section 124A while the "reconsideration" of the provision was under way.

A Bench headed by then Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana had also observed that while it was "cognisant of security interests and integrity of the State on one hand," and the "civil liberties of citizens on the other", there was a requirement to "balance" both sets of considerations.

In the present case, the Bench directed the Madhya Pradesh High Court to take up the petitioner's appeal forthwith, along with connected matters, and decide them on merits.

The petitioner had been convicted by a trial court in 2017 on charges including sedition, promoting enmity under the IPC, offences under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, and the Arms Act, 1959. He has since been lodged in a central jail in Bhopal.

Memorial unveiled in Seoul to honour Indian troops

It pays tribute to the contributions of the 60 Para Field Ambulance of the Indian Army and the Custodian Force of India, which played a significant role during and after the Korean War

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the Republic of Korea's Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs Kwon Oh-eul jointly inaugurated the Indian War Memorial at Imjingak Park in Seoul on Wednesday, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Korean War and honouring the contribution of Indian troops during the conflict.

According to the Defence Ministry, the memorial has been constructed to pay tribute to the courage, sacrifice, and humanitarian service of the 60 Para Field Ambulance of the Indian Army and the Custodian Force of India (CFI), which played a significant role during and after the Korean War.

The two Ministers laid wreaths at the memorial and paid homage to the Indian personnel, whose service continues to be remembered with gratitude by the people of South Korea.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Singh highlighted India's enduring contribution to peace and humanitarian assistance on the Korean Peninsula. He said the sacrifices and shared history between India and South Korea form a strong foundation for the growing Special Strategic Partnership between the two nations.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during the inauguration of the Indian War Memorial in Seoul on Thursday. PTI

He also thanked the South Korean government, particularly the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, for supporting the establishment of the memorial. The South Korean Minister praised India's humanitarian role during the war and acknowledged the lasting bonds of friendship forged through the service of Indian troops.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the two countries to strengthen cooperation in honouring Korean War veterans and promoting exchanges between them. A memoir dedicated to the sacrifices of the Indian soldiers was also released on the occasion.

The 60 Para Field Ambulance, led by Lt. Col. (Dr.) A.G. Rangaraj, earned widespread acclaim for treating thousands of wounded soldiers and civilians under difficult battlefield conditions. Their compassion and bravery earned them the title "Maroon Angels" from the Korean people.

India also played a key role after the armistice through the Custodian Force of India under the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission chaired by Lt. Gen. K.S. Thimayya, overseeing the humane repatriation of prisoners of war. The memorial stands at the site where the CFI had established "Hind Nagar" in 1954, which housed nearly 22,000 prisoners of war before their peaceful repatriation. The ceremony marked the conclusion of Mr. Singh's four-day visit to Vietnam and South Korea.

India flags Pakistan's 'long-tainted' record of genocidal acts

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

India highlighted Afghan civilian deaths and injuries caused by cross-border violence by Pakistani military forces, saying such "heinous acts" of aggression should not come as a surprise from a country that bombs its own people and conducts systematic genocide.

In a strong retort at the UN Security Council on Wednesday, India called out Pakistan's "long-tainted record" of genocidal acts after Islamabad's envoy at the UN, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir during a debate held during China's presidency of the Council.

"It is ironic that Pakistan, with its long-tainted record of genocidal acts, has chosen to refer to issues that are strictly internal to India," India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, said at the annual UNSC Open Debate on "Protection of civilians in armed conflict".

He referred to estimates by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), which documented 750 civilian deaths and injuries in Afghanistan in the first three months of 2026 due to cross-border armed violence by Pakistani military forces, most of them resulting from air strikes.

According to UNAMA, 94 of the 95 incidents involving civilian casualties were attributed to Pakistani security forces.

Mr. Parvathaneni said the "world has not forgotten" that during the holy month of Ramzan in March, Pakistan carried out a "barbaric air strike" on the Omid Addiction Treatment Hospital in Kabul. Citing UNAMA estimates, he said the "cowardly" act killed 269 civilians at the facility that "by no means can be justified as a military target".

"But such heinous acts of aggression by Pakistan should not come as a surprise from a country that bombs its own people and conducts systematic genocide," he said, recalling Operation Searchlight in 1971, when Islamabad had sanctioned the "systematic" campaign of genocidal mass rape of 4,00,000 women in former East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) by its own Army.

Mahila Congress seeks fresh investigation into Hathras gang rape case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The All India Mahila Congress (AIMC) on Thursday demanded a reopening of the probe into the 2020 Hathras gang rape and death case, citing revelations made in a recently released documentary, *Hathras 16 Days*, which it claimed exposed "systemic failures" and an alleged cover-up by the Uttar Pradesh administration and police.

Addressing a press conference, AIMC president Alka Lamba alleged that the documentary raised "serious and disturbing questions" over the conduct of the police, district administration and the State government during the investigation.

Ms. Lamba said the Dalit victim was assaulted on September 14, 2020, and died at Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi on September 29. She reiterated allegations that the victim was cremated by authorities in the early hours of September 30 without the consent or presence of her family.

"The documentary shows that evidence was not collected for eight days. The victim was bathed and cleaned before medical examination," Ms. Lamba said, alleging that crucial forensic evidence was compromised. She further claimed that the documentary carried statements from a gynaecologist and a former senior police officer indicating delays and lapses in evidence collection.

UNLF-P cadre held, looted weapons seized in joint operation in Manipur

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

A joint team of the Manipur Police, the Assam Rifles, and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has seized 67 weapons, including looted police weapons, and arrested four cadres of the United National Liberation Front-Pambei (UNLF-P), the oldest valley-based armed group of Manipur, from the Lamshang area in Imphal West for the alleged crime.

The Pambei faction of the UNLF signed a peace agreement with the Centre and the State government on November 29, 2023. According to the agreement, the cadres are mandated to stay within the designated camp, and surrender weapons before the police.

A special operation was launched based on information regarding the selling of looted arms in Lamshang. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The cadres were in the process of selling the looted police weapons when they were apprehended by the police. The police posed as customers to bust the crime and made the recoveries after a brief exchange of fire.

Other than the weapons, they seized a high quality "drone jammer". A police source said the "Made in Taiwan anti-drone jammer" may have been procured from Myanmar.

Over 6,000 police weapons and lakhs of rounds of ammunition were looted when ethnic violence between the Kuki-Zo and the Meitei people erupted in the State on May 3, 2023. Over 4,500 police weapons have been recovered so far.

Based on credible information regarding the selling of looted arms and ammunition in the Lamshang area, the Manipur Police launched a special operation on Wednesday, the police said in a statement.

"During the operation, two active cadres of UNLF-P, Heishnam Thomas Singh (29) and Arambam Tomtom Singh (29), were apprehended along with one INSAS LMG, three INSAS LMG magazines and fourteen live rounds," the statement by the police said.

On Thursday, the joint security forces recovered 38 additional weapons and heavy stores comprising AK series rifles, M-series rifles, sniper rifle, carbine, shotguns, mortars, RPG-7 launcher, anti-drone jammer, and a huge cache of explosives, including grenades, the police said.

Take forward economic reforms, PM tells Ministers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting of his full Council of Ministers in New Delhi on Thursday, stressing the reform agenda of his government in the midst of a changing geopolitical situation.

The last such meeting of a full Council of Ministers was held on June 4. Ministries of Labour, Power, Commerce, Finance, Agriculture, and Railways and even the NITI Aayog made presentations at the meeting of past work as well as future plans.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Modi emphasised that economic reforms, taken forward by measures such as the recalibration of the GST regime last year, should be continued and planning for reforms that were carried beyond 2026 be put in place.

Manipur DGP moved to Cabinet Secretariat

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Manipur Director-General of Police (DGP) Rajiv Singh was appointed Secretary (Security) in the Cabinet Secretariat on Thursday.

Mr. Singh, a 1993-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Tripura cadre, was appointed as Manipur's police chief on June 1, 2023, days after the ethnic violence between the Meitei and the Kuki-Zo people erupted in the State on May 3 the same year.

Mr. Singh was appointed DGP by relaxing the service conditions as he was not from the Manipur cadre.

On Thursday, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet "approved the appointment of Shri Rajiv Singh, IPS, Director General of Police, Government of Manipur to the post of Secretary (Security) in the Cabinet Secretariat with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post, or until further orders, whichever is earlier."

Rajiv Singh

Rajiv Singh oversaw operations to recover 4,500 weapons that were looted from police armouries

Mr. Singh oversaw the operations to recover around 4,500 police weapons that were looted from police armouries following the May 3, 2023 violence.

The State was placed under President's Rule on February 13, 2025 and till it was revoked on February 4, this year, around 1,000 extortionists had been arrested in the State.

On May 29, 2023, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) deputed Mr. Singh from Tripura to Manipur cadre. He was posted as Inspector General, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), when the changes were made. The order said that Mr. Singh was being transferred from Tripura cadre to Manipur cadre for a period of three years in relaxation of the policy as a "special case in public interest."

He succeeded then DGP P. Doungel, who was transferred as Officer on Special Duty (Home), a newly created post. Mr. Doungel, a 1987 batch IPS officer from Manipur cadre, belonged to the Kuki community and has since retired.

27 Maoists surrender in Jharkhand: police

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

A group of 27 Maoists surrendered before the Jharkhand police on Thursday, as part of Operation Navjeevan. The group includes commanders and strike squads of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist), active in the Kolhan and Saranda regions, as well as two leaders of the Jharkhand Jan Mukti Parishad active in Gumla district, said the police.

The Jharkhand police, along with its anti-Naxal unit Jharkhand Jaguar and the COBRA unit of the Central Reserve Police Force, is conducting operations against the Maoists, under the Jharkhand government's surrender and rehabilitation Policy.

The Maoists surrendered their arms before the Jharkhand Director General of Police Tadasha Mishra and other senior police officials at an event in Ranchi.

APPEAL

Ms.Mrittika Sarkar, Manipal Hospitals No.MH018372987, 5 years is Diagnosed to be Suffering from Congenital Heart Diseases, Tetralogy of fallot, Confluent Branch PAS, No Major Coronary Crossing RVOT. She requires to undergo Intra Cardiac repair. The Estimated cost of the Surgery is Rs.5,00,000/-.

Please send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Fav. **Save Poor Lives** A/c Mrittika Sarkar, **Our A/c Details:** S/B A/c No. 20000913487. S.B.I. R.A.Puram, IFSC CODE:SBIN0001855. Please Donate by G-pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. Donations are exempted under 80G of I.T.ACT.

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Modi govt. has 'run out of ideas' on economy, Congress says and seeks a policy reset

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Jairam Ramesh

The Congress on Thursday said the Narendra Modi government had "run out of ideas" on economic policy-making, and called for a "radical reset", alleging that worsening economic indicators reflected deep structural problems in the economy.

"The Prime Minister is busy distributing toffees and engaging in pious pleas to the public. The ground is slipping beneath the country's feet," Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh said in a statement.

Mr. Ramesh also took an apparent dig at the government's political management, remarking that while "the Prime Minister is managing elections through Gyanesh", he "urgently needs new Gyan on the economy".

Mr. Ramesh said that sentiment surrounding the economy had deteriorated to the extent that even the government's "professional cheerleaders" had begun expressing concern publicly.

He alleged that inflation forecasts were rising while growth projections were declining, foreign direct investment continued to shrink and supply chains had been "gravely mismanaged".

The Congress had consistently raised concerns about the investment climate and the inability of private investment to gather momentum, he said. He argued that sustained economic growth would not be possible without a significant increase in private investment.

Ladakh civil society leaders to meet Union Home Ministry officials today

Activist Sonam Wangchuk, who was released from detention in March and joined Leh Apex Body (LAB), will participate; this is the first meeting of LAB and Kargil Democratic Alliance members with top Ministry officials since February 4

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Sonam Wangchuk, centre, along with Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance leaders at a protest for Statehood. FILE PHOTO

A civil society delegation from Ladakh, including climate activist Sonam Wangchuk who was released from detention under the National Security Act on March 14, will meet Union Home Ministry officials on Friday.

This is the first meeting of members of the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), the two bodies representing Leh and Kargil districts, respectively, since February 4 when a high-powered committee (HPC) meeting led by Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai was held in New Delhi. The meeting had remained inconclusive.

On Friday, a sub-committee comprising Ministry officials will meet the delegation.

This will be the first time that Mr. Wangchuk will be attending the meeting with Ministry officials.

The delegations that had previously met did not include his name as he was only recently inducted in the LAB.

The KDA and LAB have been demanding constitutional safeguards such as Statehood and inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, thus giving it tribal status.

Ladakh, which was earlier a part of Jammu and Kashmir, became a Union Territory in 2019 following the reading down of Article 370 of the Constitution.

Steadfast on demands

Cherring Dorjay Lakruk, co-convener of the LAB, said they will stick to their demands that they have been raising since 2020, which include Statehood for Ladakh.

After the violence on September 24, 2025 in Leh city when four people, including a Kargil war veteran, were killed in police firing, the talks have hit a stalemate.

Ministry officials have so far only offered safeguards available under Article 371 of the Constitution and insisted on strengthening the hill councils. Article 371 deals with "Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions", and exists in 12 States.

Goyal slams Rahul's 'traitor' remark, says PM's five-nation tour produced concrete outcomes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Piyush Goyal addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Thursday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's five-nation tour brought concrete outcomes for every citizen, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday. He accused the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, of having a "negative mindset", responding to his comments criticising the trip and calling Mr. Modi a "traitor".

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters, Mr. Goyal said the tour's accomplishments reflected that India, under the leadership of Mr. Modi, stood strong on the world stage and was viewed as a reliable and trusted partner.

"This was not just an international diplomatic or political visit. It produced major outcomes for India's future. The 57 outcomes shape India's future development strategy, economic journey, strengthening self-reliance, and ensuring that goods are available conveniently to the people," he said.

"The entire world looks toward India and the Prime Minister with great confidence, whereas Rahul Gandhi*ji* carries a negative mindset, as repeatedly revealed in his behaviour, words and speeches," Mr. Goyal said.

At an event in Rae Bareli on Wednesday, Mr. Gandhi slammed the Prime Minister for going on an international tour after a speech urging Indians to practice austerity in a time of crisis.

'Real treachery'

Mr. Gandhi called Mr. Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah "traitors", accusing them of attacking the Constitution.

Mr. Goyal attempted to flip the moniker onto Mr. Gandhi and his party.

"Is eradicating naxalism treachery, or was allowing it to flourish for years under the Congress rule the real treachery? The country knows very well that keeping India secure demonstrates Modi*ji*'s patriotism. The way the Congress party and the Gandhi family support infiltrators is treachery," the Minister said.

"Is breaking the backbone of terrorism and giving a fitting reply to terrorists treachery, or is serving biryani to terrorists and compromising with them treachery," Mr. Goyal asked.

"If the Prime Minister has emerged today as a global leader, then naturally Rahul Gandhi*ji* may feel some discomfort, but this jealousy is very unfortunate," he said, claiming that the people of India have repeatedly rejected Mr. Gandhi.

Crisis to opportunity

Under Mr. Modi, the Minister said, the country acts proactively in addressing global and local challenges, and converts every crisis into an opportunity. "As soon as the signals of war were evident, India immediately started finalising newer trade routes, tying up newer partnerships on the energy front, finalising agreements with other countries, and securing petroleum products, crude, LPG, and LNG from a more diversified set of countries," he said.

"Due to the current situation, many of our neighbours and almost all developing or less-developed countries have experienced massive disruptions in supply chains, and soaring energy prices... India remains an oasis in the desert," Mr. Goyal said.

Hope India will play a role in ending Russia-Ukraine conflict: Finland PM

Suhasini Haidar
OSLO

Finland PM Petteri Orpo says he has raised the issue of India's import of Russian oil during bilateral talks on May 19. AFP

Finland hopes the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is ratified by all 27 European Union members and is signed at the earliest, Finland's Prime Minister Petteri Orpo has said. He has expressed the hope that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will use his relationship with Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to find an end to the conflict on the country's borders.

"The conflict in Ukraine is the biggest security threat to the whole of Europe, especially for Finland, because we are a small neighbour country to Russia," Mr. Orpo said in an interview to *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the Nordic-India summit here. "I was very satisfied when Prime Minister Modi told that he has discussed [with] both President Putin and President Zelenskyy, that they have to go to the negotiation table and they need to find a solution," he said, referring to Mr. Modi's visits to Moscow and Kyiv in 2024.

Mr. Orpo said that he had raised the issue of India's import of Russian oil, which he called a part of Mr. Putin's "war machine", in a "general" way with Mr. Modi during their bilateral talks on May 19. Mr. Orpo was critical of the U.S. decision to extend waivers on sanctions over Russian oil for a third month, but said that Finland did not regret joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) security alliance in 2023, after the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

"Oil exports is part of Putin's war machine, and it's clear that we are not satisfied that they are exporting oil, and at the same time countries pumping money to the war machine. We believe the only way to push Putin to the negotiation table is to keep sanctions on and support Ukraine," Mr. Orpo said, adding that he had asked Mr. Modi to "use his relations" with both Russia and Ukraine to stop the war.

Prior to his visit to Europe, Mr. Modi held talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov this month, and the Kremlin has announced that Mr. Putin will visit Delhi for the BRICS Summit on September 12-13, while Mr. Modi will also visit Moscow later this year for a summit with Mr. Putin.

Mr. Modi, who has been intensifying his meetings with European leaders in Delhi this year, returned from a four-nation tour of the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy on Thursday, and will visit Europe again in June for the G-7 summit in France and make a bilateral visit to Slovakia. Later this year, sources say, the Prime Minister is expected to make another trip, to Brussels, for the signing of the India-EU FTA.

India's engagement with Finland's leadership this year has been particularly close. Mr. Modi hosted Mr. Orpo during the Artificial Intelligence Summit, and President Alexander Stubb was the chief guest at the External Affairs Ministry's signature event, the Raisina Dialogue, in March in Delhi. In Oslo, Mr. Modi held bilateral talks with Mr. Orpo again, and then engaged with him at the Nordic-India summit this week.

"I have had the honour to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi two times in three months, and we have had excellent discussions on how to deepen our cooperation," Mr. Orpo said, adding that Finland's focus on doubling bilateral trade by 2030, from presently low levels of $1.5 billion, was particularly in the areas of digitisation, and sustainability, including green technology transfers.

Both leaders underlined the importance of early entry into force of the India-EU FTA, a Ministry readout of the meeting said. "They exchanged views on regional and global developments, and on greater cooperation in international organisations," the Ministry said, without details of the conversation on the Ukraine conflict.

88% turnout in peaceful Falta repoll in West Bengal

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The repolling in the Falta Assembly constituency of West Bengal witnessed a high voter turnout on Thursday amid heavy presence of Central forces. Repolling was largely peaceful after complaints of malpractices had surfaced on the original polling day on April 29.

According to the latest Election Commission data, the turnout was 88.13%.

"People of Falta spent this day with a sense of festivity. The EC has always tried to establish the elections like a festival, and the Falta repolling has proved that," a senior official at the Chief Electoral Officer's office said on Thursday. The official said the poll body received five complaints from the polling stations, but they were technical issues, and not malpractices or law-and-order problems.

The repoll was conducted amid massive security deployment with armoured cars, drone surveillance, and hundreds of Central forces personnel.

The EC announced a repoll after a fact-finding team from the ground published a report on large-scale malpractices in the poll held on April 29.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL| Invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works against following enquiry numbers on **Partial Turnkey basis.**

No. CEE/T&P/SEE-1/2/2026-27/1707-40 **Date: 20.05.2026**

Sl.No.	Enquiry Nos. and Name of the works
1.	**KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3783**
	Upgradation of existing 2x20MVA, 66/11kV **Hirehalli** sub-station in Tumakuru Taluk & District to 2x150MVA, 220/66/11kV GIS sub-station along with construction of associated 220kV transmission line for a distance of 0.805kms, and 66kV Lines for a distance of 46.961kms and laying of 66kV UG Cable for a distance of 1.6kms.
2.	**KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3781**
	Establishing of 2x160MVA, 220/110kV and 1x10MVA, 110/11kV sub-station at **Chadachan (Devarnimbaragi)** in Chadachan Taluk, Vijayapura District with KIOSK based arrangement along with construction of associated 220kV transmission line for a distance of 29.628kms and 110kV Lines for a distance of 60.78kms along with construction of 2 nos. of 220kV terminal bays and 05 nos. of 110kV terminal bays.
3.	**KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3782**
	Combined Package of the following works: **Work-A:** Establishing 2x160MVA, 220/110/11kV & 1x10MVA, 110/11kV sub-station at **Byadagi (Lakamajikoppa)** in Byadagi Taluk, Haveri District and construction of 220kV Transmission line for a distance of 0.752kms and 110kV Transmission Line for a distance of 56.58kms along with construction of 4 nos. of 110kV Terminal Bays. **Work-B:** Upgradation of 2x5MVA, 33/11kV sub-station to 2x20MVA, 110/11kV sub-station at **Bommanahalli** in Hanagal Taluk, Haveri District and construction of 110kV DC line with Panther conductor from 110kV Akkialur (Balambeeda) sub-station to the proposed 110kV Bommanahalli sub-station for a distance of 16.626kms and construction of 2 nos. of 110kV Terminal Bays at ongoing 110kV Akkialur (Balambeeda) sub-station. **Work-C:** Upgradation of 2x5MVA, 33/11kV sub-station to 2x20MVA, 110/11kV sub-station at **Belagalapet** in Hanagal Taluk, Haveri District and Construction of 110kV DC line with Panther conductor from 110kV Akkialur (Balambeeda) sub-station to the proposed 110kV Belagalapet sub-station for a distance of 8.664kms along with construction of 2 nos. of 110kV terminal bays at ongoing 110kV Akkialur (Balambeeda) sub-station in order to terminate proposed 110kV DC line from the proposed 110/11kV Belagalapeth sub-station. **Work-D:** Establishing 2x20MVA, 110/11kV sub-station at **Hanumanamatti** in Ranebennur Taluk, Haveri District and construction of 110kV LILO line from 110kV Ranebennur-Byadagi SC line to the proposed 110/11kV sub-station at Hanumanamatti for a distance of 2.414kms.
4.	**KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3774**
	Establishing 2x150MVA, 1x12.5MVA, 220/66/11kV sub-station at **Vemagal** in Kolar Taluk and District along with construction of associated 17.817kms of 220kV line & 27.403kms of 66kV line & 66kV Terminal Bays.
5.	**KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3778**
	Establishing 2x150MVA and 1x12.5MVA, 220/66/11kV sub-station at **Hanur (Mangala)** limits in Hanur Taluk Chamarajanagara district along with construction of associated 13.458kms of 220kV and 58.733kms of 66kV Transmission lines and 220kV & 66kV Terminal Bays.
6.	**KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3788**
	Establishing 2x150MVA, 220/66kV & 1x12.5MVA, 66/11kV sub-station at **Jagaluru (Gowripura)** in Jagaluru Taluk, Davanagere District and construction of associated 220kV Transmission line for a distance of 20.502kms and 66kV Transmission Lines for a distance of 34.789kms along with construction of 2 nos. of 220kV terminal bays and 03 no's of 66kV terminal bays.
7.	**KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3776**
	Establishing 2X20MVA, 110/11kV sub-station at **Rajeev Grama** in Shiggaon Taluk, Haveri District with associated line for a distance of 9.874kms along with construction of 110kV terminal bay at existing Shiggaon sub-station.
8.	**KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3777**
	Upgradation of existing 2x5MVA, 33/11 kV sub-station to 2X20 MVA, 110/11kV sub-station at **Mudenur** in Ranebennur Taluk, Haveri District with associated line for a distance of 15.656kms along with construction of 2 nos. of 110kV terminal bays at existing 110/33/11kV Tumminakatte sub-station.
9.	**KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3779**
	Establishing 2X20 MVA, 110/11kV sub-station at **Chalageri** in Ranebennur Taluk, Haveri District with associated line for a distance of 18.169kms along with construction of 2 nos. of 110kV terminal bay at existing Aremallapura sub-station.
10.	**KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3780**
	Establishing 2x20MVA, 110/11kV sub-station at **Nittur** in Hirekerur Taluk, Haveri District with associated line for a distance of 5.013kms.
11.	**KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3786**
	Establishing 2x20MVA, 110/11kV GIS sub-station at **BIMS(Civil Hospital)** in Belagavi Taluk & District and laying of 110kV class, 630Sq.mm XLPE UG cable for a distance of 2.164kms from existing 110/33/11kV Nehru Nagar sub-station to proposed 110/11kV GIS sub-station at BIMS (Civil Hospital) along with construction of 01 no. of 110kV Terminal Bay at existing110/33/11kV Nehru Nagar sub-station.

No. CEE/T&P/SEE-1/2026-27/1753-65 **Date: 21.05.2026**

12.	**KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3682**
	Establishing 2x12.5MVA, 66/11kV sub-station at Kalathmadu with associated 66kV LILO line for a distance of 1.925kms in Virajpete Taluk, Kodagu District.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after Dated: **30.05.2026 at 15:00hrs** for works from Sl. No. (1) to (11) and on or after Dated: **25.05.2026 at 15:00hrs** for work at Sl. No. (12). **Last date & time for receipt of Bids and any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the KPP Portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- **Chief Engineer (Electy.), Tendering & Procurement,**
KPTCL, 9th Floor, Indhana Bhavan, A.R Circle, Bengaluru-560009.

INBRIEF

Over 10,000 pilgrims rescued after landslip in Uttarakhand

Joint rescue teams safely evacuated 10,450 pilgrims stranded on the Kedarnath route in Uttarakhand's Rudraprayag following a sudden landslip at Munkatiya, officials said on Thursday. According to the officials, the landslip occurred between Sonprayag and Gaurikund on Tuesday late night after heavy rainfall in the region. The debris blocked the main highway and trapped several pilgrims. Continuous rockfalls, heavy rainfall, darkness, and challenging mountainous terrain created a highly difficult situation for the stranded travellers. The District Control Room Rudraprayag alerted the State Disaster Response Force at 9.16 p.m. A rescue team from Sonprayag immediately rushed to the spot. PTI

2020 Delhi riots: HC grants bail to Malik in UAPA case

The Delhi High Court on Thursday granted bail to Salim Mailk, who is accused of participating in the meetings, protest and chakka jams (transport strike) during the February 2020 Delhi riots. A Bench of Justices Prathiba M. Singh and Madhu Jain noted that Mr. Malik has been in custody for more than five years and the stage of the trial is that arguments on the charges are being heard. "Accordingly, the trial is going to take some time. Under these circumstances, bearing in mind the role of the appellant, this court is of the view that he deserves to be released on bail," it ordered. It also pointed out that Mr. Malik's 'role' is similar to the role attributed to the co-accused who have already been granted bail by the Supreme Court.

India skips vote on UN climate resolution

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

India abstained from voting on a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution calling on countries to comply with their obligations on climate change, voicing concern that the draft "undermines" the "sacrosanct architecture" of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The resolution was adopted in the 193-member General Assembly on Wednesday with 141 votes in favour, eight against, and 28 abstentions. India said it had engaged constructively in negotiations, clarifying its concerns and positions.

"We are therefore disappointed that our concerns were not addressed, despite our best efforts to find common ground," it said.

In the Explanation of Vote, First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Petal Gahlot, said adoption of the resolution by the General Assembly does not create binding commitments for India.

The resolution welcomed the July 2025 unanimous advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on States' obligations on climate change.

SC declines plea on forest clearances for Adani project in M.P.

Petitioner says the coal block project will lead to felling of 6 lakh trees in Singrauli district; top court points to delay in challenging the approvals

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to interfere with the environmental clearances granted to the Adani Group's coal block project in Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli district, pointing to the delay in challenging the approvals.

A Bench comprising Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe was hearing a plea filed by environmental activist Ajay Dubey challenging an April 22 order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which had dismissed his plea against the May 2025 environmental clearance granted to Mahan Energen Ltd., a subsidiary of Adani Power, on the ground of limitation.

Questioning the delay, the Bench orally observed, "Your original application itself was filed on January 22... why was there such a delay?"

Under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010, challenges to orders passed by statutory authorities must ordinarily be filed within 30 days, with a further 60-day extension permissible upon sufficient cause being shown.

Dust grind: A labourer working in a coal yard at Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh on November 18, 2021. AFP

Appearing for Mr. Dubey, advocate Siddharth Gupta contended that the matter involved grave environmental concerns and that technical objections ought not to stand in the way of the Supreme Court exercising its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to examine the validity of the clearances.

Mr. Gupta argued that the project would lead to the felling of nearly six lakh trees in Singrauli.

The Bench observed that the NGT had relied upon the Supreme Court's 2025 ruling in *Talli Gram Panchayat v. Union of India*, where the court had examined the scope of limitation under Section 16. "The matter was heard at length," the Bench observed.

The Bench suggested that Mr. Dubey could pursue the matter through a writ petition. Following this, Mr. Gupta sought permission to withdraw the plea, which the court allowed while granting him liberty to "avail other legal remedies, if any".

CJP's X handle withheld; founder starts new account

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The X account of Cockroach Janta Party, the satirical political outfit that has taken social media by storm, has been withheld in India in response to a legal demand, according to founder Abhijeet Dipke.

"Cockroach Janta Party's account was started on 16th May. Within 4 days the account got banned because it got more than 200K following," the founder posted on X on Thursday. Mr. Dipke also claimed that attempts were made to hack the CJP's Instagram handle.

Mr. Dipke later announced that he had started a new account named "Cockroach Is Back" on X. He informed the agencies that the team would pursue the matter "legally". A little over an hour after it was started, the "Cockroach Is Back" X handle had 16,800 followers.

The CJP is a satirical political movement founded on May 16 by Mr. Dipke, a former political strategist for the Aam Aadmi Party. The platform was started in response to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant's comment describing young, unemployed Indians as "cockroaches". The CJI had later said that the media had "misquoted" him.

A poster announcing the CJP's new X account after the original was taken down. X/@COCKROACHISBACK

The movement became an Internet sensation, garnering over 14.5 million followers on Instagram, surpassing the BJP's 8.8 million follower count. Several other accounts using the 'cockroach' nomenclature remain active on X, including 'The Cockroach Youth', 'Cockroach News', 'IAmCockroach', 'Cockroach Party of India' and 'Cockroach Janta Party (Gen Z)'.

Politicians, including Trinamool Congress leaders Mahua Moitra and Kirti Azad, engaged with or expressed interest in the movement, alongside activists such as Prashant Bhushan and Anjali Bharadwaj.

(With PTI inputs)

From rallies to reels: political catchphrases turn dance anthems in Kolkata

Shreya Banerjee

A video uploaded by IndicSociety on X shows clubgoers in Kolkata dancing to the song *Hamba Hamba* inside a nightclub in the city. *Hamba Hamba*, an imitation of the bellowing of cows, taken from former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's speech in Murshidabad ahead of the 2021 West Bengal Assembly election, has now been remixed into a techno number that has got the city dancing, especially after the Trinamool Congress's loss in the 2026 election.

The song was uploaded in January 2024 on popular streaming platforms by Bajania Ghar, a music production house.

Over the past few years, Bengal's political soundscape has given rise to a strange but sticky new genre: political techno remixes built on repetitive choruses, meme-friendly punchlines, and danceable beats, often remixed by local DJs and amplified through reels and short-form videos.

The trend arguably began in 2021 with *Khela Hobe* (let the games begin), the Trinamool Congress anthem written by their youth leader Debangshu Bhattacharya and remixed by DJ Bulbul. Originally adapted from a slogan popularised by Bangladeshi politician Shamim Osman, the phrase quickly escaped politics and entered everyday speech.

Since then, songs like *Hamba Hamba*, *Mach Chor* (fish thief), and *File Chor* (file thief) have followed a similar template, using catchy hooks, and direct political mockery to travel rapidly across social media.

Arkaprabha Mahata, a software development engineer, says he has been enjoying the *Hamba Hamba* song for a while now. He says, "So basically the words '*hamba hamba rumba rumba kamba kamba*' – all of these words are in between two beats. Now, in any techno track, every beat usually has a backing melody or rhythm behind it, and in this particular song these words, with their rhyming scheme, fit perfectly into that structure and work well together."

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), following and preceding its landslide victory in Bengal on May 4, has released tracks like *Mach Chor* and *File Chor,* aimed at certain former Ministers and Trinamool members.

Indrayudh Bose, an MBA graduate from Trinity College Dublin, says the moment he heard the BJP's latest song, *Thanda Thanda Cool Cool Mayer Bhoge Trinamool* (calm and cool Trinamool is on offer to the goddess), he shared it with his friends.

Indrayudh explains that many people dancing to or enjoying these songs do not necessarily subscribe to the political ideology of the party behind them. "I think it boils down to one really catchy tune and the lyrics are so funny. Like *Khela Hobe* (the game is on), which came out in 2021, became a chant and we brought it up in every conversation. Even when I was discussing the Derby, East Bengal versus Mohun Bagan, people were saying *khela hobe*. So that phrase kind of caught on not necessarily because people liked Mamata or Trinamool. And the same thing in 2026, BJP also realised that a way to get into people's heads who may not subscribe to the ideology – especially the one which I shared to my friends, *thanda thanda cool cool mayer bhoge Trinamool* – objectively has no head or feet. It is just something really funny and groovy which caught my attention," says Indrayudh.

Groovy mix: A screen grab from the music video 'Hamba Hamba' on YouTube. BAJANIA GHAR

Giving these songs a boost and an afterlife is social media. Sohan Saha, a cybersecurity student specialising in ethical hacking, uploaded a video of himself and a friend dancing to the BJP's song *Mach Chor* on Instagram on May 5. The song is targeted at Saokat Molla, a former Trinamool MLA. As of May 21, the video had received 1.4 million views.

Sohan first heard the song on a friend's mobile phone a week before the 2026 West Bengal election. "It didn't hit me at first. After listening to it two or three times on Instagram reels, the repetitive hook got stuck in my head and I felt that it had something in it, it had a 'vibe'. After that I started hearing the song in buses, autos, totos (three-wheeled public transport), and roadside stalls. Even if we take out the party angle, the lyrics were so engaging and funny it was relatable. The catchy tune makes people move and dance. Nowadays in the techno songs made in Bollywood, they have a repetitive hook as well and a catchy beat. These kinds of beats are trending and make you want to move. Instagram or YouTube Shorts are great for making these songs go viral."

After uploading the reel, Sohan gained more than 700 followers, with comments pouring in from users across States praising the groovy number.

Using crudeness

Discussing this new genre of satirical techno-inflected remixes, Chandril Bhattacharya, a political commentator and former lyricist for the band Chandrabindoo, explains, "Earlier in Bengali protest songs, a certain class would be attacked or songs would be against the oppressor. During the Left Front rule, some of the songs centred around some mishaps and thus criticised the ruling party. But now songs are directly, without any scope of suggestion, naming and attacking specific parties or specific persons and often crossing the limits of decency. That forms the core of their appeal, at the same time a lack of refinement is not usually known to enhance art. So these songs are treading a thin line, they reflect people's attitude but they use crudeness to become popular."

Speaking of their popularity, Chandril says, "In today's age these songs are gaining popularity because we are seeing the creation of a culture of insult-flinging on social media. Humiliating others is creditable. At the same time these songs give vent to a lot of valid anger against the political leaders who abuse power. These songs also have a good level of skill or craft. They have crunchy punchlines, hummable refrains, and catchy rhythms that make people dance."

TH CROSSWORD + 14800

(set by Karaoke)

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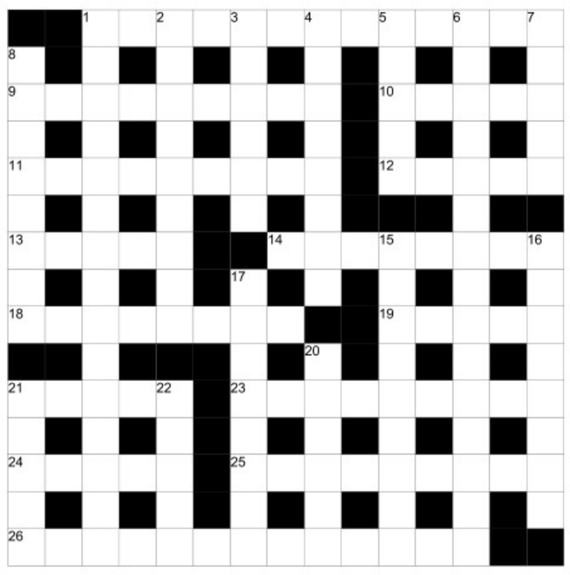
SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1. Scene at the end maybe premature end? (5,8)
9. Life in Beirut occasionally could be without issue (9)
10. Reportedly he brings charges against channel (5)
11. Lady supervisor cooking roti and naans mainly in dining hall (9)
12. A plant originally camouflaged insect (5)
13. Act fine, finishing off, get the weapon used by police (5)
14. Bury husband inside with a woman especially wearing nothing (2,3,3)
18. Heartily takes panties off in a mental hospital (8)
19. Struggle to clear elementary school? Take test again (5)
21. Goes steady with fruits (5)
23. He cashes in on old vehicle essentially in problem with petrol (9)
24. Watch fire, let off steam inside for cured meat (5)
25. Nicotine usage keeps health ultimately at risk (2,4,3)
26. Shopping bag weighs a ton and moves impressively (4,4,1,4)

DOWN

1. Maybe the Latin rectified modern English (8,7)
2. Voice box for blitzkrieg (3,6)
3. Author of Hotel upset with Emily on vacation (6)
4. Church service is all the same, no good (8)
5. Inventor's writing tablet recycled (5)
6. When ghost train with passenger in the middle crashes that surprises me (3,6,1,5)
7. Dear friend regularly dropped and made a booboo (5)
8. Frequent flyers earn them while travelling to exotic Israel with family essentially (3,5)
15. Mohican dancing around Arabic music maker (9)
16. Bird with weather-beaten neck mainly (8)
17. Bite loaf at sea, It may be your source of survival (8)
20. Photograph that revealed a small ulcer (6)
21. Maiden appearance, good for model, correct? (5)
22. Wines brewed for stamina (5)

SUDOKU

7		1					2	
				1				
	9				8		1	7
	1	7	9		6	2		
6		5				8		9
		3	5		2	1	4	
3	6		1				9	
				3				
	5					4		1

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6888 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	6	4	9	2	8	5	1	7
5	9	7	4	1	6	3	8	2
1	8	2	5	7	3	9	6	4
6	1	5	2	3	7	8	4	9
9	4	8	1	6	5	2	7	3
7	2	3	8	9	4	1	5	6
4	5	9	7	8	2	6	3	1
8	3	1	6	4	9	7	2	5
2	7	6	3	5	1	4	9	8

FAITH

5 types of God's compassion

Human beings are broadly classified into three categories: *Baddha Jivatmas, Mumukshus (or Nivratta Samsaris)*, and *Nitya-suris*. *Baddha Jivatmas* are souls bound to the endless cycle of birth and death, tossed about in the turbulent ocean of worldly existence and suffering. *Mumukshus* are those who, after realising the impermanent nature of worldly pleasures, strive sincerely for liberation and ultimately attain the divine abode of the Lord. *Nitya-suris* are eternally liberated souls who never enter the bondage of material existence and remain forever engaged in uninterrupted service to the Lord in Sri Vaikuntha, enjoying eternal divine bliss.

Sri Desika Srinivasa Tatacharya Swami explained that out of boundless compassion for the *Baddha Jivatmas*, the Lord seeks to establish a connection with them through five kinds of *sukruta* (meritorious acts). The first is *Ajnata Sukrutam*, in which a person unknowingly performs a virtuous deed that gradually becomes the seed of spiritual upliftment. The second is *Yadruchhika Sukrutam*, in which a person consciously performs a good deed, though without a deliberate spiritual objective. The third, *Anusangika Sukrutam*, refers to incidental merit gained while pursuing some other purpose or worldly activity. The fourth, *Prasangika Sukrutam*, occurs when virtuous actions arise naturally and spontaneously without prior intention or planning. The fifth and highest form is *Samanya Buddhi Mula Sukrutam*, where a person performs noble deeds selflessly, without expecting reward or benefit in return. Through one or other of these forms of merit, the Lord gradually draws the soul closer to Him.

INBRIEF

Maruti Suzuki to hike prices by up to ₹30,000 from June

In view of the sustained increase in input costs, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. (MSIL), India's biggest passenger vehicles company by market share, has decided to increase the prices of its models across its portfolio by up to ₹30,000 with effect from June 2026. "For the past few months, the company has been making continuous efforts to mitigate the cost impact to the extent possible through cost reduction measures. However, with inflationary pressures now at elevated levels and the adverse cost environment persisting, the company has to pass on a portion of the increased costs to the market, while continuing to ensure that the impact on customers is kept to the minimum extent possible," MSIL said in a statement. PTI

'Diesel demand spiked on agri-season, retail boost'

Certain geographical areas of the country observed 20-30% growth in demand for diesel – coinciding with the agricultural season and bulk consumers of diesel shifting to retail outlets – with the government working to ensure adequate supply across all outlets, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) told reporters on Thursday. "Buying [of diesel] has increased in certain areas, there has been a growth in demand," she stated, adding, "Some of it is related to the agricultural season, some of it is also related to bulk diesel purchases shifting to retail [outlets], and the difference between the price of retail fuel being charged by state-run oil marketing companies and private players." Separately, the senior official said that pumps typically hold two to three days of stock. Thus, the sudden spurt in demand also calls for adjustment of last-mile logistics, she added.

Transporters announce 4% increase in freight rates

To offset the diesel price hike, transporters introduce new calculation method, which will regulate the pass-on price of the increase in diesel rates, which accounts for 65% of the operational cost

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

With diesel prices increasing and fuel shortage impacting free movement of trucks, transporters have decided to increase freight rates by 4% with effect from May 20, to pass on the extra burden to the customers. This includes a 3% hike on non-diesel components and 0.65% on the diesel component.

The move, announced by the All India Transporters Welfare Association (AITWA), is expected to fuel inflation. The move, announced by the All India Transporters Welfare Association (AITWA), is expected to fuel inflation.

To offset the diesel price hike, the transporters have introduced a new calculation method called fuel adjustment factor (FAF), which will regulate the pass-on price of the increase in diesel rates, which accounts for 65% of the operational cost.

Cascading effect: The hike in fireight charges is expected to fuel inflation. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Transporters have appealed to customers to pay the extra rate so that they do not default on their loans. They have also requested customers not to impose any penalty for delayed arrival of consignments as trucks are getting stuck due to diesel shortage in several pockets.

Since the prices of non-diesel components, i.e., toll, tyre and lubricants, have gone up, the transporters have increased the non-diesel charges by a flat 3%. This is to offset the additional burden due to the ₹3 increase in diesel price announced on the first occasion.

In the case of the diesel component, for every ₹1 increase in diesel price per litre over the base rate prevailing on May 15, 2026, there would be a 0.65% increase in freight rates, as per the FAF.

It may be recalled the first increase in diesel price was effected from May 15, which has become the base date.

'Oil India will change the narrative of its production in the next 18 months'

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Ranjit Rath

With the recent government interventions in infrastructure and allocation, Oil India would ramp up production immensely in the next 18 months, Chairman and Managing Director Ranjit Rath told *The Hindu*.

"Government has authorised the [expansion of] Duliajan feeder line. So, that will mean more gas can be evacuated," Mr. Rath stated, adding, "Further, the government has also authorised an additional new well gas [allocation] of up to 1.5 million standard cubic metres to Numaligarh refinery, which will help scale up from the current production level of 8 million standard cubic metre to 13 million standard cubic metre."

"Now, in the next eighteen months we will change the narrative," Mr. Rath said. The Oil India chief also mentioned that the feeder line would help evacuate increased gas out of associated wells, that is, wells where both oil and gas are present.

Thus, the safe evacuation facility in such wells ensures that both oil and gas can be captured without losing any for flaring.

Mr. Rath said Oil India was targetting to drill 100 wells in the ongoing financial year, up from 74 wells in FY 2025-26.

The explorer-producer is seeking to allocate ₹10,000 crore in capital expenditure this fiscal, up from about ₹8,900 crore it had spent last year.

The wells would span across both onshore and offshore basins. "The number would include drilling activities in northeastern India, in Gujarat's Cambay Basin, Baghwala and Dandewala in Rajasthan, the second well in Kerala-Konkan basin alongside Andaman-Nicobar," he stated.

On the international front, Mr. Rath said with the force majeure withdrawn from the Area 1 LNG project in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province, the explorer-producer expects gas production to commence by the "end of 2028 or early 2029".

Mr. Rath said Oil India conducted petroleum system modelling studies as part of their strategy to choose the blocks to bid for in the upcoming rounds of Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), and to "de-risk" the potential explorations.

RBI revived intervention strategy to arrest rupee fall, say bankers

Reuters
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reverted to its familiar intervention strategy on Thursday, deploying heavy dollar sales via state-run banks before market open to halt a persistent slide in the rupee after a string of all-time lows, bankers said.

The rupee surged on the interbank order matching system to near 96 against the U.S. dollar following heavy intervention, with the currency rallying by about 70 paise within minutes. It opened at 96.30 in the onshore spot market, up 0.5% on the day.

The central bank's pre-open intervention mirrored past episodes where it has acted aggressively to break a negative feedback loop of persistent depreciation and mounting pressure on the rupee.

The currency fell to within a whisker of 97 on Wednesday. The RBI last deployed this strategy in March and has, at times, intervened heavily either before market open or shortly after. The rupee rebounded 50 paise to settle at 96.36 against the U.S. dollar on Thursday

Zepto to float ₹11,000-crore IPO in July

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Quick commerce platform Zepto plans to launch its ₹11,000-crore initial public offering (IPO) in July, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

If the listing goes through, Zepto will join rivals Zomato and Swiggy, which are already listed on stock exchanges.

India seeks inputs on issues in pharma export to SAARC, Iran

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

SAARC member India has begun an exercise to spot and resolve market access issues its drugs and pharmaceuticals face in other SAARC nations and Iran.

The Foreign Trade (South Asia) Division in the Department of Commerce is collecting inputs on the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS), Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and market access issues, pharma exporters body Pharmexcil said seeking details from its members recently.

Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Maldives, Pakistan, Bhutan, all SAARC members, as well as Iran are the countries for which the details are sought. The inputs are essential for an upcoming crucial meeting with all export promotion councils, Indian Missions, Ministry of External Affairs and the EP Pharma Division of the Department of Commerce, Pharmexcil DG Raja Bhanu had said recently.

Pharma exports to SAARC in 2024-25 stood at about $1.2 bn.

Also, the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) sought specific suggestions or possible solutions to address the identified challenges as well as a list of potential products which have scope of growth country wise.

West Asia impact

It also sought details on how the trade, with these countries, has been affected due to the West Asia war and crisis.

Pharmexcil said it would consolidate and present to the FT(SA) Division the information, shared by the members.

Pharmaceutical exports to the eight countries in 2024-25 stood at about $1.2 billion. India's total pharmaceutical exports in the same fiscal year stood at $30.47 billion.

LIC Q4 net up 23%, to pay ₹10 dividend

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) reported standalone net profit climbed more than 23% year-on-year in the March-ended quarter to ₹23,420.43 crore.

The higher profit came on an over 14% increase in total income to ₹2,76,827.17 crore which included net premium income of ₹1,64,691.21 crore (₹1,47,585.56 crore). Income from investment stood at ₹1,09,022.04 crore (₹93,132.67 crore).

For FY26, net profit climbed 19.25% to ₹57,419 crore. Total income rose to ₹9,73,288.26 crore (₹8,84,148.22 crore). Total premium income was almost 10% higher at ₹5,35,984 crore.

CEO and MD R.Doraiswamy said with strong overall growth across every business vertical leading to record performance, 2025-26 was a satisfying year.

₹10 dividend

The insurer's board declared a final dividend of ₹10 per equity share.

On the impact of the West Asia crisis, the CEO said every sector is expected to be impacted and savings through insurance can certainly be impacted. "We are in tough times... [nevertheless] will try to move towards our targeted, double-digit new premium growth... expect growth in renewal premium [to continue]."

JSW Motors gets ₹8,000 cr. via SBI to make green vehicles

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

JSW Motors Ltd., a firm set up by Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Group, said it received long-term project finance of about ₹8,000 crore from the State Bank of India with an unspecified long-term tenure for the development of a New Energy Vehicle (NEV) venture.

"The financing will partly fund our greenfield manufacturing facility at Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Maharashtra, and help accelerate the creation of a robust, domestically anchored NEV ecosystem, a JSW Motor Ltd. spokesperson said in a statement issued on Thursday.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA
e-mail - serwsbd2003@yahoo.com

Letter No.2369 — **1st Corrigendum** — Date: 19/05/2026

In continuation to this office Bid Identification **No. CCERWCSBD-Online-01/2026-27** invited vide this office Notice **No.1953 Dtd.30.04.2026**, partial modification of NCB has been made as follows:

1. **Availability of Tender online for bidding Extended up to Dtd.28.05.2026 at 5.00 PM**
2. **Last Date and Time of seeking tender clarification Dtd.26.05.2026 up to 2.00 PM**
3. **Date & Time of opening of tender (Technical Bid) on Dtd.29.05.2026 at 11.00 AM.**
4. **Date & Time of opening of tender (Price Bid) Will be intimated later**

All other terms and conditions will remain unaltered.

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.
25001/199/2627 — OIPR-25001/25182/1/26-27/0023

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, DHENKANAL (R&B) DIVISION, DHENKANAL
Email - eedklpwd@gmail.com
INVITATION FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. SE DKL (R&B). 08 / 2026-27
Invitation for Bids

1.	The Superintending Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Division, Dhenkanal, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in single cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for Construction of Building work as detailed below.		
2.	Nature of work	:	**6 Nos Electrical Works**
3.	No. of work	:	**06 Nos.**
4.	Bid Cost	:	**₹6,000/- & 4,000/-**
5.	Class of Contractor	:	**"Specialise Agency with associate electrical contractor having valid license from ELBO" License**
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	**From 10.00 AM of 21.05.2026 to 5.00 PM of 04.06.2026**
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	**Dt.05.06.2026 at 11.00 AM**
8.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website:**https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.		

Superintending Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Division.
34001/226/2627 — OIPR-34001/34016/1/26-27/0010

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
No. : NIT/2026-27/2367 - 81 — **निविदा सूचना/2026-27** — Date : 20/05/2026
निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए केन्द्र / राज्य सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभागों एवं उनके अधिकृत संगठनों में पंजीकृत एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है

कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की कुल अनुमानित लागत(रु.)	निविदा सूचना संख्या
Construction of Of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukharji Model Convention Centre at Nohar, Hanumangarh. **UBN: RRC2627WSOB00180**	370.37 Lakh	ई-102/26-27
Electrification work in Auditorium Building at University of Kota. **UBN: RRC2627WSOB00176**	293.45 Lakh	ई-103/26-27
Construction of Main Entrance Gate & Guard Room at Medical College, Dausa. **UBN: RRC2627WSOB00174**	240.00 Lakh	अल्पकालीन ई-104/26-27

निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र में निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, डाउनलोड करने व खोलने की तारीख सहित सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं संशोधन वेबसाईट: **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in** तथा **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrdc** पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है। **महाप्रबंधक**

KALYAN SINGH SUPER SPECIALTY CANCER INSTITUTE
C.G. City, Sultanpur Road, Lucknow-226002.
(An Autonomous Institute of the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh)
Website: www.cancerinstitute.edu.in, Email ID: office.sscih@gmail.com
GeM Bid Notice
It is hereby informed that a bids No. is as follow :-

Sr. No.	Name of Items	Bid No. & Date	Pre Bid Meeting Date & Time
1.	**Cleaning, Sanitation & Disinfection Service -** Outcome Based-Healthcare; General Cleaning (Sweeping, Mopping, dusting); Indoor & Outdoor	**GEM/2026/B/7563900 Dated 21-05-2026**	**25-05-2026 15:00**

The Bid uploaded on GeM Portal for Procurement of **Cleaning, Sanitation and Disinfection Service** at KSSSCI. All interested service providers/bidders are required to submit their bids on GeM Portal in accordance with the terms and conditions of the GeM bid documents. The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.
The Tender documents are available on the website of the Institute **www.cancerinstitute.edu.in**
Advt no: KSSSCI/Tender-02/2026-27 — **Director**

TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Kagitha Nagar, Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy Dist, Tamil Nadu.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Description	Due date
262713 001156	Steaming (Non-Coking) Coal in Bulk (Imported) with 4200 GAR of Indonesian origin.	08.06.2026
262713 001181	Procurement of Fuel oil for Unit - I	29.05.2026
262723 000643	Procurement of OBA (Slurry / Liquid) for Wet End - VAP for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II.	01.06.2026
262723 000644	Procurement of Native Starch for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II.	03.06.2026
262723 000645	Procurement of Carboxy Methyl Cellulose (CMC) for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II.	05.06.2026
262723 000664	Procurement of Acrylic Binder - I for TNPL Unit - II	29.05.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/1941/Tender/2026 — *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/14 - 2026-27
Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-09/0526_TKC2 **RFx 7000039950 (1st Call)** for Work of replacement of existing 0.2 ACSR conductor along with hardware by High Performance Conductor (HPC) in r/o 132kV Bhandara-Kardha Ckt I & Bhandra-Kardha Ckt II and allied works at 220kV Bhandara S/s & 132kV Kardha S/s under EHV PC (O&M) Zone, Nagpur.	Rs. 2347.43 Lakhs (Incl. GST) / Rs. 1989.35 Lakhs (Excl. GST) / 25,000.00+GST	09.06.2026 17:00 Hrs / 09.06.2026 17:15 Hrs

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (GrTKC-2)
CPA, C.O. MSETCL, 1st Floor, Prakashgad Building, Bandra (E), Mumbai
Tel. No.: 022-69852717
Email id: cecpa@mahatransco.in, secpa@mahatransco.in, eetkc2cpa@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/**
Any further amendments / clarifications will be published on the MSETCL website **www.mahatransco.in.** & **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/ .** Bidders are therefore requested to check these websites for further updates.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/13 - 2026-27
Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-08/0526_TKC2 **RFx 7000039921 (1st Call)** for Work of replacement of existing 0.2 ACSR conductor along with hardware by High Performance Conductor (HPC) in r/o 132kV Khapri-Butibori Ckt I (21.27 km) & 132kV Khapri-Butibori Ckt II (21.65 km) and allied works at 132kV Khapri Substation & 220kV Butibori-1 Substation under EHV PC (O&M) Zone, Nagpur	Rs. 3100.54 Lakhs (Incl. GST) / Rs. 2627.57 Lakhs (Excl. GST) / 25,000.00+GST	18.06.2026 17:00 Hrs / 18.06.2026 17:15 Hrs

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (GrTKC-2)
CPA, C.O. MSETCL, 1st Floor, Prakashgad Building, Bandra (E), Mumbai
Tel. No.: 022-69852717
Email id: cecpa@mahatransco.in, secpa@mahatransco.in, eetkc2cpa@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/**
Any further amendments/clarifications will be published on the MSETCL website **www.mahatransco.in.** & **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/** . Bidders are therefore requested to check these websites for further updates.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

TEHRAN

Pakistan Army chief due in Iran as Trump says talks on 'borderline'

REUTERS

Pakistan's Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir was due in Iran on Thursday, Iranian media reported, with Islamabad mediating as the Islamic republic examines a new U.S. proposal. The visit comes a day after Donald Trump warned that negotiations to end the war were on the "borderline" between a deal and renewed strikes. AFP

MANILA

Philippines orders arrest of senator wanted by the ICC over killings

REUTERS

The Philippine justice chief Fredderick Vida ordered authorities on Thursday to enforce an International Criminal Court warrant for the arrest of Senator Ronald Dela Rosa wanted on an alleged crime against humanity. He warned that anyone helping the senator evade a nationwide hunt would face criminal charges. AP

LAHORE

Mastermind of Pulwama terror attack, Hamza Burhan, killed in PoK

REUTERS

Hamza Burhan, believed to be one of the masterminds behind the 2019 Pulwama terror attack that claimed the lives of over 40 CRPF personnel, was killed on Thursday when unknown gunmen opened fire on him in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), sources said. He had been living undercover as a teacher in PoK. PTI

WASHINGTON

U.S. lifts sanctions on UN expert on Palestinians following court order

AFP

The United States on Wednesday removed sanctions on Francesca Albanese, a UN expert on the Palestinian territories who has harshly criticised Israel, following a court order. "Protecting the freedom of speech is 'always' in the public interest," U.S. District Judge Richard Leon wrote in an opinion accompanying the order. AFP

Mojtaba forbids export of enriched uranium: officials

Exporting the material would increase Iran's vulnerability to future U.S. or Israeli attacks, believe top officials; Iran's Hormuz authority claims regulatory jurisdiction extending into UAE waters

Reuters
DUBAI

Iran's Supreme Leader has issued a directive that the country's near-weapons-grade uranium should not be sent abroad, two senior Iranian sources said, hardening Tehran's stance on one of the main U.S. demands at peace talks.

Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei's order could further frustrate U.S. President Donald Trump and complicate talks on ending the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran.

Israeli officials have said that Mr. Trump has assured Israel that Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium, needed to make an atomic weapon, will be sent out of Iran and that any peace deal must include a clause on this.

"The Supreme Leader's directive, and the consensus within the establishment, is that the stockpile of enriched uranium should not leave the country," said one of the two Iranian sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Pro-government demonstrators chant slogans as they wave Iranian flags during a gathering at a square in downtown Tehran. AP

Iran's top officials, the sources said, believe that sending the material abroad would leave the country more vulnerable to future attacks by the United States and Israel. Mr. Khamenei has the last say on the most important state matters.

Meanwhile, Iran's new body overseeing the Strait of Hormuz said its claimed area of control extends to Emirati waters, drawing a sharp rebuke from the Gulf neighbour.

In a post on X on Wednesday accompanied by a map, the newly-established Persian Gulf Strait Authority said it had outlined "the regulatory jurisdiction for the management" of the strait.

It said this covered the area between the line extending from "Kuh-e Mubarak in Iran to the south of Fujairah in the UAE... to the line connecting the tip of Qeshm island in Iran to Umm Al-Quwain in the UAE."

It added that "transit through this area for the purpose of passing through the Hormuz Strait requires coordination with, and authorisation from, the Persian Gulf Strait Authority".

(With AFP inputs)

Ukraine says its drones hit another refinery deep inside Russia, 2 killed

Associated Press
KYIV

Ukrainian drones smashed into another Russian refinery overnight, starting a fire that produced huge clouds of black smoke, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Thursday, in what appeared to be the latest long-range attack on Moscow's vital oil industry.

The drones targeted the Syzran oil refinery, located more than 800 km inside Russia, Mr. Zelenskyy said on social media, where he posted a video of the aftermath.

The governor of Russia's Samara region, Vyacheslav Fedorishchev, said that two persons were killed by Ukrainian drones in Syzran but he didn't mention the refinery. Russia's *Astra* news outlet said that Ukrainian drones struck the Syzran refinery owned by oil and gas giant Rosneft.

Series of strikes: Smoke rises after a drone attack on the oil refinery and terminal in Tuapse in Russia on April 29. AP

Ukraine has expanded its mid- and long-range strike capabilities, deploying eye-catching drone and missile technology that it has developed domestically as it battles to defeat Russia's 4-year-old invasion. Ukrainian weaponry and expertise are now sought by other countries, whereas earlier in the war Kyiv had to plead for massive foreign military aid.

"Overall, our long-range plan for May is being carried out largely in full," Mr. Zelenskyy said in a social media post late on Wednesday.

"The key targets are Russian oil refineries, storage facilities, and other infrastructure tied to these oil revenues."

Israel's govt. begins deporting hundreds of flotilla activists

Associated Press
TEL AVIV

Israel has released hundreds of activists who attempted to breach Israel's naval blockade of Gaza and is in the process of deporting them, according to a legal organisation working with the flotilla.

The Israel-based legal advocacy group, the Legal Centre for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, said that all of the international activists are in transit to a civilian airport near the southern Israeli city of Eilat for deportation.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday he instructed that the activists be deported "as soon as possible". He added that Israel has every right to stop "provocative flotillas of Hamas terrorist supporters".

Benjamin Netanyahu

Myanmar military recaptures 2 border towns from militias

Associated Press
BANGKOK

Myanmar's military-backed government says it has regained control of two towns near the country's borders with India and Thailand, marking a significant advance in the civil war as it seeks to reassert control of regions long held by resistance forces.

A report in the state-run *Myanma Alinn* newspaper on Thursday said Tonzang, near the border with India, was captured by the Army on Wednesday after 10 days of operations to retake it. The paper published photos of soldiers who recaptured the town in front of the township's administrative office and other departments.

That report came a day after *Myanma Alinn* reported that the army on Tuesday retook control of Mawtaung, a strategically important border town for trade with Thailand, after a two-week operation.

The army's recapture of Tonzang in northwestern Chin state and Mawtaung in the southern Tanintharyi region come as the army has regained the upper hand in the nationwide conflict since mid-2025.

Bangladesh-China talks under way for Tarique Rahman's first foreign visit

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh's new Prime Minister, Tarique Rahman, is in talks with Beijing to visit China in the coming weeks. According to a report in *Prothom Alo*, Beijing is keen to welcome Mr. Rahman for his first foreign trip in the last week of June.

Sources indicate that the schedule for the visit has not yet been finalised, but plans are under way to begin the several-day visit with high-level meetings between Prime Minister Rahman and top Chinese leaders, including President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Keqiang.

The conversation about the visit was also disclosed last week by his Foreign Affairs Adviser, Humayun Kobir, who highlighted China's importance as a "development partner" and said that the visit will definitely take place.

Earlier, on May 8, during a conversation at a Dhaka hotel, China's ambassador to Bangladesh, Yao Wen, had indicated that the visit was being planned, though he did not mention a schedule at that time. The newspaper reported that Bangladesh may raise the need for infrastructure development, the relocation of Chinese industries to Bangladesh, the establishment of Chinese economic zones in Bangladesh, and the Teesta Master Plan, in addition to the modernisation of Mongla port. Enhancing aviation connectivity is also expected to be discussed.

Tarique Rahman

Mr. Rahman, who will complete his first hundred days in office next week, has been holding talks within his team about his first visit abroad since coming to power in February. The first destinations were expected to be India, China, or Saudi Arabia. However, the crisis in the Gulf reduced the likelihood of a trip to Saudi Arabia, and Bangladesh's relations with India in recent weeks have been strained by rhetoric from West Bengal and Assam concerning illegal immigration.

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Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:

GOVERNMENT E – MARKET PORTAL – ENGAGEMENT OF A CONSULTANT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXPECTED CREDIT LOSS (ECL) FRAMEWORK

BID NO: GEM/2026/B/7560810 DATED 19.05.2026

The Above RFP tender document is available and can be downloaded from the following websites **www.iob.bank.in** & **www.gem.gov.in** For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website **www.gem.gov.in**

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Applications are invited from qualified candidates for appointment to the following class I posts on regular basis :-

- Sr. Asst. Secretary (Public Relation) -1 No. UR (Rs.50,000 -1,60,000)
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Sd/- SECRETARY
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GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL - SELECTION OF SYSTEM INTEGRATOR (SI) FOR UNIFIED IT SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE BANK

BID NO: GEM/2026/B/7564045 DATED 20.05.2026

Kindly note that the earlier tender floated vide bid ref no: GEM/2025/B/7322785 dated 06.03.2026 is cancelled

The Above RFP tender document is available and can be downloaded from the following websites **www.iob.bank.in** & **www.gem.gov.in** For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website **www.gem.gov.in**

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - Tender Notice

O/o The Executive Engineer, Transmission Division, Nedumkandam, Idukki.
E-Tender ID No. 2026_KSEB_835235, PAC: Rs. 1,31,46,489.843/-, Last Date: 28.05.2026, 03.00 pm.
E-Tender ID No. 2026_KSEB_826640_2, PAC: Rs.1,98,79,969.74/-, Last Date: 29.05.2026, 03.00 pm.
O/o The Chief Engineer, (S.C.M) & C.S.C. Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram.
E-Tender ID No. 2026_KSEB_851668_1, PAC: Rs. 79,53,52,100/-, Last Date: 10.06.2026, 04.00 pm.
E-Tender ID No. 2026_KSEB_851752_1, PAC: Rs. 43,18,16,839/-, Last Date: 09.06.2026, 03.00 pm.
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in Ref: PR/MC1/E614 - E-tender/2026

SRI VENKATESWARA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES: TIRUPATI
(A University established by an Act of A.P. State Legislature)
TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS

NOTICE INVITING SHORT TENDERS

Tenders are invited through e-tendering process in ap-eprocurement platform (Two bid system) for Purchase of Medical Equipment, Video Management System and Video Analytics Surveillance System, Internet Leased Line & Equipment on Reagent Rental basis. For details log on to the website **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** & **https://svimstpt.ap.nic.in.** The Director-cum-VC reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DONATE LIBERALLY TO "SVIMS GENERAL DONATION SCHEME" SVIMS ACCOUNT NO.: 62121045670, SBI, IFSC CODE: SBIN0020926, "80G BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO THE SCHEME"

Roc.No.P1/19/eprocurement/PD/SVIMS/10, Dt:19-05-2026 **Sd/- DIRECTOR-CUM-V.C.**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
DEVANAHALLI, KARNATAKA - 562164
Ph: 080-2991-6308

E-tender Notice No.:HSFC/CMG/2(21)/Comp/174/2026-27 Date: 21.05.2026

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

On behalf of the President of India, Online Item rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following works:

Title of work	**Establishment/Contruction of 11kV Substation Augmentation at HSFC, Devanahalli (Electrical & Civil Works)**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**₹ 1074.00 Lakhs**
Period of Completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	**(09) Nine Months**
Period during which the tender document can be requested	**From 11:00 Hrs. on 22.05.2026 To 23:30 Hrs. on 12.06.2026**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 11:10 Hrs. on 22.05.2026 To 23:59 Hrs. on 12.06.2026**
Bid clarifications	**From 11:30 Hrs. on 22.05.2026 To 14:30 Hrs. on 14.06.2026**
Reply to Bid clarifications	**Up to 17:00 Hrs. on 16.06.2026**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**Up to 10:30 Hrs on 17.06.2026**
Due date and time of opening of tenders (Technical bid)	**11:00 Hrs. on 17.06.2026**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**₹ 20,74,000/-**

For eligibility criteria and other details, Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) from website **www.isro.gov.in** for further details and Purchase of tender documents visit **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**

Sd/- Head CMD, CMG, HSFC

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Superintending Engineer Zone-2, BCCC, 4th Floor, Annex Building-3, Bengaluru – 560 002

No: SE/BCCC/Z-2/TEND/01/2026-27 Date: 21.05.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER-CALL-4
(Two Cover System)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Superintending Engineer, Zone-2, BCCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors firm registered in Bengaluru Central City Corporation or equivalent registration with Labour Department or any State Government Organizations for the Collection of Parking Fees for Various roads in Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Zone-2 as detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Description
1.	Collection of Parking Fees Dispensary Road (OPH Road) to Kamaraj Road & Ibrahim Sahib Street Road. **Minimum Reserve Annual License fee : Rs. 95.22 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 1,90,440.00**
2.	Collection of Parking Fees for Millers Road Junction, Planeterium Road, St. John's Church Road & St. John's Road. **Minimum Reserve Annual License fee : Rs. 113.23 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 2,00,000.00**
3.	Collection of Parking Fees for 2nd temple road in Dattatreya Temple Ward, Sampige Road, Railway Parallel Road & BVK Iyengar road. **Minimum Reserve Annual License fee : Rs. 96.10 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 1,92,200.00**
4.	Collection of Parking Fees for Mavalli Tank Bund road, DVG Road in Sunkenahalli Ward, Shankarmatt Road & PMK Road. **Minimum Reserve Annual License fee : Rs. 109.38 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 2,00,000.00**
5.	Collection of Parking Fees for Vani Vilas Road, Vasavi Temple Street, Kanakapura Road, Diagonal Road, Patalamma Road & T Mariyappa Road. **Minimum Reserve Annual License fee : Rs. 122.34 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 2,00,000.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka from **21.05.2026 (2)** Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **16.00 hours on 05.06.2026. (3)** Queries may be uploaded in KPP Portal on before: **26.05.2026 upto 16:00 hrs. (4)** Technical Bids will be opened on the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** in the office of the Superintending Engineer, Zone-2, BCCC, Bengaluru on **06.06.2026 at 16:30 hrs.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer Zone-2, BCCC

SUSPENSE CONTINUES

We will know about Dhoni's IPL future only next year: Ruturaj

REUTERS

You will get to know about it (M.S. Dhoni's potential IPL 2027 participation) next year. Even I will get to know about it next year. Obviously, he was a big miss for us this season. He can cause fear in the opposition in the late overs. He can change the momentum just by staying at the crease — CSK captain Ruturaj Gaikwad.

CSK THINKING

Simons' view on Short's promotion and why Samson won't complain

VIJAY SONEJI

We thought Matthew Short plays the short ball well. That's why the openers were changed... I know Sanju Samson wouldn't say that he got dismissed early because of being hit on the finger. Cricketers have to deal with it, especially wicketkeepers. It's just one of those things — CSK bowling coach Eric Simons.

LOSING IT

Hardik gets fined 10% of match fee and handed one demerit point

PTI

Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya has been fined 10% of his match fee and handed one demerit point for abuse of cricket equipment after he knocked off the bails during a frustrating spell in the match against Kolkata Knight Riders in Kolkata on Wednesday. Hardik admitted to the offence and accepted the sanction.

AN ASSET

Pandey adds value to the team, he's super experienced: Watson

K.R. DEEPAK

Kolkata Knight Riders assistant coach Shane Watson heaped praise on Manish Pandey, the Player-of-the-Match against Mumbai Indians. "He adds value to the team. He's a super experienced guy, an amazing fielder. The way he's looking after himself shows that he's still got a number of years of cricket in front of him".

Imperious Titans showcase their might, knock out Super Kings

After a batting masterclass by Sai Sudharsan, Gill and Buttler, the bowling unit takes charge; Siraj, Rabada and Rashid scalp three each; the Ruturaj-led Chennai franchise fails to make it to the playoffs for the third successive season

IPL-19

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
AHMEDABAD

Chennai Super Kings' yellow outnumbered Gujarat Titans' cosmic blue in the Narendra Modi Stadium stands, but it was the home team that handsomely outscored the visiting side on Thursday.

GT's 89-run victory not only brightened its Qualifier 1 chances but also knocked out the five-time champion from IPL 2026.

True to its form and fame, the Titans top-order delivered the goods. Sai Sudharsan (84, 53b, 7x4, 4x6), Shubman Gill (64, 37b, 7x4, 3x6), and Jos Buttler (57 n.o., 27b, 5x4, 4x6) displayed batsmanship of the highest order as the hosts amassed 229 for four.

The GT openers began with their typical elegance, hitting the first six only in the last over of the Power-Play.

The second phase of the innings, however, had more power-hitting. While Gill's first six off Noor Ahmad placed him in the 6000-run club in T20s, the second maximum off the Afghan spinner signalled the GT captain's 23-ball half-century.

Gurjapneet Singh could have removed Gill had CSK gone for a review for caught-behind. The Super Kings players' reaction when replays confirmed that the 26-year-old had caught an edge encompassed the story of the match.

Sai Sudharsan quickly shifted gears as GT reached the 100-run mark in the 10th over. It was also the 10th time Sai Sudharsan and Gill breached the three-figure barrier as partners, putting them level with the Royal Challengers Bengaluru duo of Virat Kohli and A.B. de Villiers for most 100-plus stands in the IPL.

Gill's departure in the 13th over did not affect the scoring rate. In fact, Buttler only enhanced it; his brutal range-hitting provided the finishing kick to GT's innings.

The run-chase – which started with Super Kings being reduced to 29 for three inside three overs and 63 for five in seven – was virtually non-existent before Shivam Dube's 17-ball 47 (4x4, 4x6) injected some life into the pursuit.

However, once Dube was sent back by Rashid Khan with the scoreboard reading 116 for six, CSK's fate was all but sealed. The early damage inflicted by Mohammed Siraj (three for 26) and Kagiso Rabada (three for 32) proved too much as the Chennai outfit was bundled out for 140.

Hunting as a pack: GT delivered a dominant all-round show to outclass CSK. VIJAY SONEJI

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT TITANS
Sai Sudharsan c Short b Kamboj 84 *(53b, 7x4, 4x6)*, Shubman Gill c Dube b Johnson 64 *(37b, 7x4, 3x6)*, Jos Buttler (not out) 57 *(27b, 5x4, 4x6)*, Rahul Tewatia run out 0 *(1b)*, Washington Sundar c Urvil b Mukesh 7 *(3b, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-3, nb-1, w-13): 17; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 229.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-125 (Gill, 12.2 overs), 2-207 (Sai Sudharsan, 18.2), 3-207 (Tewatia, 18.3), 4-229 (Washington, 19.6).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING
Mukesh 4-0-36-1, Johnson 4-0-47-1, Gurjapneet 4-0-31-0, Kamboj 4-0-56-1, Noor 3-0-41-0, Dube 1-0-15-0.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
Sanju Samson c Buttler b Siraj 0 *(1b)*, Matthew Short c Prasidh b Rabada 24 *(14b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Ruturaj Gaikwad b Siraj 16 *(7b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Urvil Patel c Prasidh b Siraj 0 *(2b)*, Kartik Sharma **(Impact Player for Gurjapneet)** run out 19 *(15b, 3x4)*, Dewald Brevis c Holder b Rashid 8 *(10b)*, Shivam Dube c Gill b Rashid 47 *(17b, 4x4, 4x6)*, Anshul Kamboj c Holder b Rashid 19 *(8b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Noor Ahmad c & b Rabada 1 *(5b)*, Mukesh Choudhary (not out) 2 *(2b)*, Spencer Johnson c Buttler b Rabada 0 *(1b)*; Extras (w-4): 4; Total (in 13.4 overs): 140.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Samson, 0.1), 2-29 (Ruturaj, 2.2), 3-29 (Urvil, 2.4), 4-51 (Short, 5.1), 5-63 (Kartik, 6.6), 6-116 (Dube, 10.3), 7-136 (Kamboj, 12.1), 8-138 (Brevis, 12.4), 9-140 (Noor, 13.3).

TITANS BOWLING
Siraj 3-0-26-3, Rabada 3.4-0-32-3, Arshad 2-0-24-0, Holder 2-0-27-0, Rashid 2-0-18-3, Prasidh **(Impact Player for Tewatia)** 1-0-13-0.

Toss: Super Kings.

Player-of-the-Match: Siraj.

Titans won by 89 runs.

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Royal Challengers (Q)	13	9	4	0	18	1.065
Gujarat Titans (Q)	14	9	5	0	18	0.695
Sunrisers Hyderabad (Q)	13	8	5	0	16	0.350
Rajasthan Royals	13	7	6	0	14	0.083
Punjab Kings	13	6	6	1	13	0.227
Kolkata Knight Riders	13	6	6	1	13	0.011
Chennai Super Kings (E)	14	6	8	0	12	-0.345
Delhi Capitals	13	6	7	0	12	-0.871
Mumbai Indians (E)	13	4	9	0	8	-0.510
Lucknow Super Giants (E)	13	4	9	0	8	-0.702

Q: Qualified | E: Eliminated

Over the moon: The East Bengal players savour the moment as the trophy is lifted. PTI

East Bengal's 22-year wait for top-division title ends

ISL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

East Bengal FC roared back from a goal down to defeat Inter Kashi FC 2-1 and emerged the new Indian Super League champion on Thursday. The triumph ended the Red and Gold Brigade's 22-year wait for the country's premier title.

A remarkable counterattack saw Inter Kashi take the lead in the 15th minute. Alfred Planas latched on to a deep cross from David Munoz and produced a spectacular volley to silence the East Bengal fans who had thronged the Kishore Bharati Stadium in large numbers to cheer the team.

The hosts responded strongly after the break, showing more urgency as they looked for the equaliser.

The efforts were rewarded in the 50th minute when Youssef Ezzejjari swooped in on a through ball from Anwar Ali and calmly slotted the ball home.

East Bengal nudged ahead in the 73rd minute when Mohammed Rashid timed his run to perfection, reaching a cross from Bipin Singh and guiding the ball home with an outstretched leg.

East Bengal held on to the lead, sparking celebrations in the dugout and the stands.

Best on show: Figueira was adjudged 'player-of-the-league' while Ezzejjari emerged the top scorer. X@INDSUPERLEAGUE

Bagan finishes second

In the other match held simultaneously at the Salt Lake Stadium, defending champion Mohun Bagan Super Giant registered a comeback 2-1 victory over Sporting Club Delhi.

East Bengal and Bagan finished with 26 points in 13 matches. As their Kolkata derby had ended in a 1-1 stalemate, goal difference proved to be the tie-breaker (19 to 14).

In New Delhi, Mumbai City FC defeated Punjab FC 2-0 through goals by Hmingthanmawia 'Valpuia' Ralte and Vikram Partap Singh to ensured itself a third-placed finish.

Punjab ended fifth in the standings with 22 points from 13 games.

The results:

At Kolkata: Inter Kashi 1 (Planas 15) lost to East Bengal FC 2 (Ezzejjari 50, Rashid 73).

Mohun Bagan SG 2 (Manvir 90, Maclaren 90+9) bt Sporting Club Delhi 1 (Fernandes 63).

At New Delhi: Punjab FC 0 lost to Mumbai City FC 2 (Valpuia 80, Vikram Singh 90+11).

At Jamshedpur: Jamshedpur FC 0 drew with Odisha FC 0.

Contrasting draw for Sinner and Djokovic

FRENCH OPEN

Reuters
PARIS

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner will open his French Open campaign against French wildcard Clement Tabur after Thursday's draw handed the Italian top seed a favourable-looking path through the top half of the men's singles bracket.

Sinner could meet another Frenchman in 30th seed Corentin Moutet in the third round and, if the seedings hold, Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime in the semifinals.

Twenty-four-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic faces a far more testing route after being drawn against Frenchman Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard in the opening round. Djokovic could run into Brazilian teenager Joao Fonseca in the third round, Casper Ruud in the last 16 and Alexander Zverev in the semifinals. Zverev, seeded second, begins against France's Benjamin Bonzi.

In the women's draw, Coco Gauff begins her title defence against fellow American Taylor Townsend while World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka faces Spain's Jessica Bouzas Maneiro.

Gauff and Sabalenka, who met in last year's final, cannot face each other in this year's championship match as they are projected to meet in the semifinals. Four-time Roland Garros champion Iga Swiatek opens against Australia's Emerson Jones, while second seed Elena Rybakina starts against Slovenia's Veronika Erjavec.

Alcaraz's absence a morale-booster for Sinner at French Open: Sania

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Jannik Sinner's chances of clinching a maiden French Open crown received a major boost when defending champion Carlos Alcaraz withdrew with a wrist injury.

The Italian, who reclaimed the World No. 1 ranking last month, heads to Paris in red-hot form after capturing the last six Masters titles, which included a dominant run through the clay-court swing in Monte Carlo, Madrid and Rome.

The prospect of completing a career Grand Slam is an extra push.

Indian tennis star Sania Mirza believes the 2026 Roland Garros crown is Sinner's to lose.

"Today, Sinner and Alcaraz have the biggest rivalry, which at one point was between Roger [Federer] and Rafa (Rafael Nadal) until Novak [Djokovic] came into the mix, followed by Andy Murray. We will feel the Alcaraz void but I'll tell you what, Sinner is not going to be too unhappy with that," Sania said in an interaction facilitated by *Sony Sports Network*.

Hot favourite: Sinner is someone who can't be ignored because of the sheer form he's coming in with, feels Sania. AP

"Sinner is someone we cannot ignore because of the sheer form he's coming in with.

"He's probably the hot favourite. And not having to face Alcaraz is going to be a huge mental boost for him," Sania added.

The 39-year-old labelled Djokovic as the tournament's "dark horse", stressing that the Serb remains capable of denting Sinner's hopes.

Sania, however, feels that the title race in the women's draw will be tough to predict.

"For the first time in a while, it's quite open. Aryna Sabalenka is not playing at her best.

"Iga Swiatek is usually unbelievable on clay but has had a quiet few months. My gut says that we might have a new champion. Maybe Mirra Andreeva or Elina Svitolina... someone who has been knocking on the door of the Grand Slams for a while".

WORLD CUP SQUADS

Nagelsmann goes back to Neuer to prop up Germany

FRANKFURT: Veteran goalkeeper Manuel Neuer was handed a surprise recall to Germany's 26-man World Cup squad on Thursday, coming out of international retirement to play in the tournament for a fifth time. The 40-year-old retired from international duty in 2024.

The squads:

GERMANY: Goalkeepers: Oliver Baumann, Manuel Neuer, Alexander Nuebel.
Defenders: Waldemar Anton, Nathaniel Brown, Joshua Kimmich, David Raum, Antonio Rudiger, Nico Schlotterbeck, Jonathan Tah, Malick Thiaw.
Midfielders: Nadiem Amiri, Leon Goretzka, Pascal Gross, Jamie Leweling, Jamal Musiala, Felix Nmecha, Aleksandar Pavlovic, Angelo Stiller, Florian Wirtz.
Forwards: Maximilian Beier, Kai Havertz, Lennart Karl, Leroy Sane, Deniz Undav, Nick Woltemade.
CZECH REPUBLIC: Goalkeepers: Lukas Hornícek, Matej Kovar, Jindrich Stanek.
Defenders: Vladimir Coufal, David Doudera, Tomas Holes, Robin Hranac, Stepan Chaloupek, David Jurasek, Ladislav Krejci, Jaroslav Zeleny, David Zima.
Midfielders: Pavel Bucha, Lukas Cerv, Vladimir Darida, Tomas Ladra, Lukas Provod, Michal Sadilek, Hugo Sochurek, Alexandr Sojka, Tomas Soucek, Pavel Sulc, Denis Visinsky.
Forwards: Tomas Chory, Adam Hlozek, Mojmir Chytil, Christophe Kabongolav, Jan Kuchta, Patrik Schick.
SENEGAL: Goalkeepers: Edouard Mendy, Yehvann Diouf, Mory Diaw.
Defenders: Krepin Diatta, Antoine Mendy, Abdoulaye Seck, Kalidou Koulibaly, Ilay Camara, Moussa Niakhate, Mamadou Sarr, El-Hadji Malick Diouf, Moustapha Mbow, Ismail Jakobs.
Midfielders: Idrissa Gueye, Habib Diarra, Pape Matar Sarr, Pape Gueye, Lamine Camara, Pathe Ciss, Bara Ndiaye.
Forwards: Sadio Mane, Bamba Dieng, Iliman Ndiaye, Nicolas Jackson, Assane Diao, Ibrahim Mbaye, Cherif Ndiaye, Ismaila Sarr.

INBRIEF

We didn't want to take risks with Patidar, says Bobat

Rajat Patidar is good to go. He came through all of the concussion protocols successfully, but then started to display a few symptoms the day after. So we were quite cautious and didn't take any risks. We thought we'd give him a little bit longer to rest. We didn't want to expose him to trouble. But yeah, he's here and he's practising – Mo Bobat, RCB's director of cricket.

Head's form not a concern: SRH asst. batting coach

SRH's assistant batting coach Hariesh Jaikumar brushed away any concerns about Travis Head's lean form. "He is one of the best batters in the world, so him failing for two matches doesn't matter. He has scored runs for the last three years. He will come good in the rest of the games, we're very positive about it."

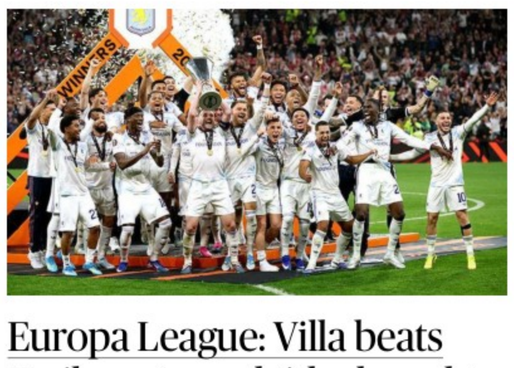
Aida clinches a treble in IGU Maharashtra golf

Aida Thimmaiah of Karnataka capitalised on Yogya Bhalla's slip to earn a treble (overall, category 'A' & 'B') in the IGU Maharashtra Ladies & Junior Girls Golf Championship in Mumbai on Thursday. Aida, a 12-year-old from Coorg, finished with a three-day total of three-over 198 in the main event.

The scores: Ladies & overall: 1) Aida Thimmaiah — 198 (64, 66, 68); 2) Yogya Bhalla — 200 (65, 66, 69). **Category 'A' (15-17 years):** 1) Aida — 198; 2) Yogya — 200. **Category 'B' (13-14):** 1) Aida — 198; 2) Rabab Kahlon — 206. **Category 'C' (11-12):** 1) Nandini Rathee — 220; 2) Gairat Kaur Kahlon — 223.

Discus thrower Banvir banned for seven years

Discus thrower Banvir Singh has been banned for seven years by the the National Anti-Doping Agency's Appeal Panel (ADAP) for flunking a dope test, adding two years to the punishment handed out to him by the Disciplinary Committee. Last year, NADA's Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) had suspended Banvir for five years for using steroid methandienone. Apart from this, long distance runner Harendra Kumar has been handed another four-year suspension effective from August 2 this year. He was earlier handed a four year ban by the ADDP effective from August 3, 2022 after testing positive for banned Darbepoetin.



Europa League: Villa beats Freiburg to end title drought

Aston Villa strolled to a 3-0 victory over Freiburg in the Europa League final in Istanbul on Wednesday to end the club's 30-year trophy drought. Youri Tielemans fired Villa ahead with an exquisite volley and Emiliano Buendia curled in a superb strike from outside the box before half-time. Morgan Rogers stabbed in a third as Villa dominated in its first major European final for 44 years to secure manager Unai Emery his record-extending fifth Europa League title.

The result: Freiburg 0 lost to Aston Villa 3 (Tielemans 41, Buendia 45+3, Rogers 58).

Much-improved SRH braces up for RCB test

Malinga's fine form and the emergence of Sakib and Praful have bolstered the Cummins-led bowling attack; the home team will be determined to seal a Qualifier 1 berth

IPL-19

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Nearly two months ago, Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Sunrisers Hyderabad kicked off this IPL season carrying expectation and different kinds of pressure. RCB arrived as the defending champion while SRH sought to turn promise into authority.

The sides meet again on Friday at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, this time in the business end of the tournament. Royal Challengers, moving with ruthless efficiency, are close to sealing top spot, with Sunrisers hoping to break into the top two.

Vastly different unit

SRH will challenge the visitor with a vastly different bowling attack from their previous meeting, when Jaydev Unadkat and Harshal Patel led the unit in captain Pat Cummins' absence.

Eshan Malinga has emerged as Sunrisers' talisman with 17 wickets, while Sakib Hussain (14) and Praful Hinge (11) have offered strong support.

Since returning to action, Cummins has added pace and intensity to the bowling pack, taking eight wickets in six appearances.

This will be SRH's first line of attack against a team that hardly appears to be vulnerable.

Shining bright: Praful and Kishan have played vital roles in SRH's rise after a slow start to the season. NAGARA GOPAL

RCB, too, boasts a formidable bowling unit led by former SRH medium-pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who has claimed 24 wickets in 13 matches.

He has been ably backed by Josh Hazlewood (12), Rasikh Salam (12), and Krunal Pandya (10).

Today's match

SUNRISERS vs RCB

Hyderabad, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 26

SRH 14 | RCB 12

PREVIOUS MEETING

RCB won by six wickets, 2026

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

With the bat, Virat Kohli has led the charge with 542 runs in 13 matches. Devdutt Padikkal (412) and skipper Rajat Patidar (337) have also played key roles, with Tim David and Romario Shepherd providing firepower down the order.

For SRH, the openers' contributions remain crucial, but Heinrich Klaasen has been the standout batter with 555 runs in 13 games. Abhishek Sharma (507) and Ishan Kishan (490) have been influential, while Travis Head (367), despite having a quieter season, remains capable of turning a match on its head.

If the first fixture set the tone for IPL 2026, this clash could deliver the perfect crescendo before the playoffs.

We get huge value out of Bhuvneshwar, says Mo Bobat

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Quietly steering clear of the turbulence and distractions surrounding the league, defending champion Royal Challengers Bengaluru became the first side to secure a playoff berth.

Despite the team's impressive run, RCB Director of Cricket Mo Bobat dismissed suggestions that the franchise had somehow "cracked the code" of the tournament, sticking to the 'taking-it-one-day-at-a-time' cliche.

The Englishman, however, lavished praise on Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who returns to the venue he called home for 11 seasons.

Bhuvneshwar... pulling strings. FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"He knows this surface and ground well, so we've been picking his brains a little bit over the last few days just to understand things.

"And as always, he's trying to help everyone around him. He has a calming influence on the whole team. We get huge value out of him," he said.

Bobat also felt that Bhuvneshwar has unlocked another gear this season.

"Everybody knows his skills, he swings the ball both ways, he's got incredible control and accuracy. I think he's gone up a level this year even compared to last year. He's a very calm and composed figure at the death, a bit like Josh Hazelwood and Rasikh Salam Dar have been."

Sunrisers Hyderabad may have turned a corner with its bowling, but Bobat reiterated that they remain stronger with the willow.

"They've got a reputation, and rightly so, as a dangerous batting unit. I really enjoy the way they go about their batting, it kind of aligns with how I like teams to play, so it's always fun watching them play. They've got some high-calibre players".

Gray fights troublesome back and Sasikumar for semifinal berth

TENNIS

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Mukund Sasikumar was handed a great chance to seal a semifinal berth at the S.M. Krishna Memorial Open here on Thursday, but he failed to capitalise on it.

In the middle of the third set, his opponent Alastair Gray called for a medical time out. Weighed down by a troublesome back, Gray moved gingerly when he came back to the court.

Sasikumar would have liked to keep the rallies going long to trouble an injured Gray, but a slew of unforced errors damaged his chances. With nothing to lose, second seed Gray went on the offensive, ripping one-handed down-the-line backhand winners to stay afloat. An animated Sasikumar (world no. 524) exclaimed loudly after every good play, but it was the fighting Briton who prevailed 6-2, 5-7, 7-6(3).

Gray will face fourth seed Petr Bar Biryukov in the semifinal on Friday.

On the offensive: Gray ripped one-handed down-the-line backhand winners to stay afloat. K. MURALI KUMAR

The results: Quarterfinals: Alastair Gray (GBr) bt Mukund Sasikumar 6-2, 5-7, 7-6(3); Hamish Stewart (GBr) bt Ognjen Milic (Ser) 6-2, 6-1.

Petr Bar Biryukov bt Mitsuki Wei Kang Leong (Mas) 6-2, 5-7, 6-3; Ilya Ivashka bt Alex Hernandez (Mex) 6-1, 6-2.

Pragg held by Deac; Firouzja's withdrawal gives Keymer lead

CHESS

Press Trust of India
BUCHAREST

Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa was held to a draw by Deac Bogdan-Daniel while Alireza Firouzja decided to finally call it quits in the sixth round of the Super Chess Classic, part of Grand Chess Tour.

Alireza, who played two games despite an ankle injury, decided it was not possible for him to continue and withdrew on the rest day of the nine-round tournament.

Germany's Vincent Keymer stretched his lead to a full point after getting a walk over. Keymer remained in sole lead on 4.5 points, ahead of Jorden Van Foreest, Anish Giri, top seed Fabiano Caruana and Praggnanandhaa, who all have 3.5 each.

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Wesley So share sixth on three points apiece while World Championship challenger Javokhir Sindarov has 2.5.

Deep in thought: Even though Praggnanandhaa picked a temporary pawn against Deac, draw was a foregone conclusion. FLICKR/GRANDCHESSTOUR

The results (round 6): Deac Bogdan-Daniel (2) drew with R. Praggnanandhaa (3.5); Vincent Keymer (4.5) walk over Alireza Firouzja (1); Fabiano Caruana (3.5) drew with Javokhir Sindarov (2.5); Jorden Van Foreest (3.5) drew with Anish Giri (3.5); Wesley So (3) drew with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (3).

Cousins.

Cousins is compound chief coach ahead of LA28

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

With an eye on the 2028 LA Olympics where compound archery will make its debut, India has appointed multiple-time former World champion Dave Cousins as the chief compound coach, with the American set to join within two weeks ahead of the Stage 3 World Cup in Antalya next month. LA 2028 has only the mixed team event, and the Archery Association of India believes Cousins fits perfectly into its long-term plans.

Last chance for CWG hopefuls to make the grade for Glasgow

ATHLETICS

Y.B. Sarangi
RANCHI

Notwithstanding some major withdrawals, a clutch of big names – including Tejaswin Shankar, Animesh Kujur, M. Sreeshankar, Tajinderpal Singh Toor, Sachin Yadav and Annu Rani - promise to make the 29th National Federation athletics meet a mouthwatering affair.

The event, starting at the Birsa Munda Stadium, Morabadi, here on Friday, is the last qualifying event for the Commonwealth Games. Athletes achieving prescribed qualification marks will be eligible to compete in Glasgow.

World and Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who is nursing injuries, Asian Games champion and Commonwealth Games silver medallist steeplechaser Avinash Sable, who delayed his return from an injury lay-off, Commonwealth Games champion triple jumper Eldhose Paul and Asian Games medallist Parul Chaudhary are some leading names who are skipping the event.

Parul, who clocked an impressive 9:12.84 in the 3000m steeplechase in the Diamond League in China this month, has requested the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) to consider her performance for CWG selection.

A maximum of 16 men and as many women athletes can represent the country in the CWG. The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) selection committee may use its prerogative to consider some athletes, who take permission and achieve the qualifying mark in 'recognised events.'

Happy tidings: Sprinter Kujur and decathlete Tejaswin share a light moment on the eve of the Federation athletics meet. RITU RAJ KONWAR

A conducive weather at the peak of summer here enthused the athletes here.

Tejaswin, who trained and competed in the USA for about five months, sounded optimistic. "The weather is good. If I qualify for high jump in decathlon, that will be unprecedented," said Tejaswin, the National decathlon and high jump record holder who has done 2.26m in high jump and 7947 points in decathlon this season.

Kujur, too, was confident. "I'm focusing on the 200m, that's my favourite event," said Kujur.

The event, witnessing the introduction of SRY Gene Test at the domestic level, will also serve as the qualifying event for the Asian under-23 championships.

Ashmita advances to quarterfinals

Press Trust of India
KUALA LUMPUR

Ashmita Chaliha moved into the quarterfinals of the Malaysia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament on Thursday, with a 21-13, 21-16 victory over Malaysia's Goh Jin Wei in the pre-quarterfinals.

Other results: Women: Malvika Bansod lost to Hojmark Kjaersfeldt (Den) 21-16, 8-21, 15-21; Devika Sihag lost to Chen Yufei (Chn) 16-21, 13-21; **Men's doubles:** A. Hariharan & M.R. Arjun lost to Hu Ke Yuan & Lin Xiang Yi (Chn) 14-21, 15-21; **Mixed doubles:** Sathwik Kanapuram & Radhika Sharma lost to Presley Smith & Jennie Gai (USA) 12-21, 25-27.

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Formula One: Canadian GP (Sprint shootout), F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 2 a.m. (Saturday)

THE HINDU GROUP

Where Maharashtra's Next Growth Story Takes Shape

Today, the state is entering a new era of redevelopment and infrastructure transformation. From new growth corridors and maritime ambitions to the rise of the extended MMR, the future of Maharashtra is being redesigned in real time.

Friday, May 22, 2026 | 10:00 am Onwards
Mumbai

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THE HINDU
MMC 2026
Maharashtra Infrastructure Conclave

Session 1: Navigating The Financial Capital: 10:15 am - 10:50 am
Ashwini Bhide, IAS, BMC Commissioner in conversation with **Vinaya Vilas Deshpande,** Chief of Bureau, The Hindu

Session 2: Kumbh: The Spiritual Boost for a Regional Economy: 11:00 am – 12:00 noon
Girish Mahajan, Cabinet Minister for Kumbh Mela
Shekhar Singh, IAS, Commissioner, Nashik Kumbh Mela
Manisha Khatri, IAS, Municipal Commissioner, Nashik Municipal Corporation
Lubaina Rangwala, Programme Head, Urban Development, WRI India
Moderated by **Lalatendu Mishra,** Senior Deputy Editor, The Hindu

Session 3: From Davos to Singapore: The Big Investment Picture: 12:00 noon – 12:15 pm
Special Address by **Kaustubh Dhavse,** Chief Advisor to the Chief Minister

Lunch: 12:15 - 13:00 pm

Session 4: Mumbai and Beyond: The Plan for an Expanding Metropolis: 13:00 – 14:00 pm
Dr Shrikant Shinde, Member of Parliament
Ashish Shelar, Guardian Minister, Mumbai (Suburbs)
Dr Sanjay Mukherjee, IAS, Metropolitan Commissioner, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)
Dr Mahendra Kalyankar, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, DRP/SRA
Moderated by **Pankaj Joshi,** Principal Director of Urban Centre, Mumbai

Session 5: Mumbai to Surjagad: Expressway to Prosperity: 14:00 – 15:00 pm
Special Address by **Eknath Shinde,** Deputy Chief Minister, Maharashtra, followed by a conversation with **Vinaya Vilas Deshpande,** Chief of Bureau, The Hindu

Session 6: The Untapped Opportunities: Maharashtra's Maritime Sector: 15:00 - 15:45 pm
Nitesh Narayan Rane, Minister for Ports & Fisheries in conversation with **Vinaya Vilas Deshpande,** Chief of Bureau, The Hindu

Session 7: Amrit Kaal 2047: What the Industry Expects for Maritime Development: 15:45 – 16:00 pm
Special Address by Capt (Retd.) **Jagmohan**, Chairperson & Managing Director, Mazagon Dock Limited

Session 8: More than a Financial Hub: Mumbai from the Eyes of the World: 16:00 – 16:30 pm
Paul Murphy, Consul General, Australia
Erik Hallstrom, Consul General, Finland
Moderated by **Vinaya Vilas Deshpande,** Chief of Bureau, The Hindu

Break: 16:30 - 17:00 pm

Session 9: India's Infrastructure Growth Trajectory - The Last Decade of Growth in Rail, Road & Shipping Sectors: 17:00 – 17:30 pm
Special Address by **M Jamshed,** Distinguished Fellow CRF Sr. Adviser to World Bank (Former Member Traffic Railway Board)

Vote of Thanks: 17:30 onwards

Associate Partners: WORLD TRADE CENTER® MUMBAI; बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra; NBCC A Navratna CPSE; Bank of India Relationship beyond banking
Telecast Partner: TIMES NOW TIMESNOW.IN

PUBLIC NOTICE

The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority-Karnataka (Constituted by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC Government of India), has accorded the environmental clearance for development of residential project, being constructed by M/s Squadron Developers Limited, at property bearing survey number 42/7, 42/8, 42/9, 42/10, 42/11, 42/12, 42/13, 42/14, 43, 44 & 45/2 of Venkatala Village Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, vide order No. SEIAA 306 CON 2025 Dated 19.05.2026. The said copy of environment clearance is available with the MoEF&CC/SEIAA/KSPCB office and the website of Environment & Ecology department at **http://www.seiaa.kar.nic.in** and **http://environmentclearance.nic.in**

TELANGANA CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING FEDERATION LTD.

Email: proc.tsmarkfed2018@gmail.com, Ph.No: 040-2460 7108

Rc.No.615/P&M/Disposal of Maize/2025-26 Date: 21.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR ONLINE E-AUCTION FOR THE SALE OF MAIZE VANAKALAM 2025-26 PROCURED BY TG MARKFED.

Tender notification for online e-Auctions on disposal of Maize Vanakalam 2025-26 procured by TG MARKFED for the quantity of 3,80, 187 MTs in 25 Lots through **e-procurement.telangana.gov.in** or **https://auction.telangana.gov.in/** i.e. Telangana e-procurement portal (Applications in e-procurement portal will be available from 10:30 AM on 22.05.2026).

1. E-auction bidding will commence on 29.05.2026 from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.
2. Last date for submission of EMD: 27.05.2026 upto 05:00 PM. For online registration and further technical support please contact Service providers Mobile No: 7337445545 / 6309339690 / 7337445546 / 9912756216

For further details please contact. Ph: 7288879806, and 7288879829

DIPR R.O.No.154-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Dt: 21-05-2026 **Sd/-MANAGING DIRECTOR**

VANI VILAS HOSPITAL

(Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute)
Fort. K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.
Phone & Fax: 080-26707174
E-mail: vanivilas.bmcri@gmail.com Website: vanivilashospital.org

No: VVH/MEQ/01/2026-27 Dated: 19-05-2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 for the following subjects.

Sl. No.	Institute	Description	Last Date	Tender Approx Amount	EMD Amount
1	Vani Vilas Hospital	BMCRI/2026-27/ IND0044 Procurement of IVF Equipments	30-05-2026	58,31,065/-	1,15,000/-

The tender documents may be downloaded from e-Procurement Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Those tenders which are not submitted with EMD will be rejected. For further details contact **Medical Superintendent, Vani Vilas Hospital, Bengaluru.**

Sd/-
Medical Superintendent
Vani Vilas Hospital, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/747/Adverto/2026-27

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ನಸಮಂ/ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿಭಾಗ/ಟೆಂಡರ್–11/2026–27
ದಿ : 18–05–2026

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು KTTP Act–1999 & 2000ರಂತೆ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು KW–3ರ ದಾಸ್ತಾವೇಜು ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03–06–2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸೂಚನಾ ಫಲಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.mandyacity.mrc.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ : 01. ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : DMA/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT57391. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) : 79.00. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) : 66.66. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) : 1,34,000/-.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ : 02. ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ :DMA/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT57393. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) : 70.60. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) : 59.77. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) : 1,20,000/-.

ಸಹಿ/–ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು,
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ಪಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಪಿಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಸಿಎ/137/2026–27

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B No. 5531, Bengaluru - Pune Highway, Bengaluru – 560055. Ph: 080-22164879, 22164886,
Website: **www.mysoresandal.org** E-mail: **ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com**
An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company

Date : 21.05.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited by **KS&DL** in two cover system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**) with respect to supply of following Goods/Services/Works.

Sl.No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Tender Quantity	Published date	Last date of submission
1	KSDL/2025-26/SE0222/CALL-2	Appointment of Agency for supplying Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Licenses for KSDL	Services	19.05.2026	29.05.2026
2	KSDL/2026-27/IND1249	Procurement of Wooden Pallet Two side closer 63 inch length X 48 inch width X 6 inch thickness at KSDL, Bengaluru Complex	1000 Nos.	20.05.2026	06.06.2026
3	KSDL/2025-26/SE0229/CALL-2	Secondary Freight for the transportation of KSDL Products from KSDL DPG/C&FA godowns to requisite destinations (Institution sales and RDS) in Karnataka and Goa	Services	21.05.2026	01.06.2026
4	KSDL/2026-27/IND1221/CALL-2	Procurement of Habanolide/Globalide (Short-Term Tender)	8300 Kgs	21.05.2026	29.05.2026

For any queries contact the undersigned

Sd/- Asst. Gen. Manager (Materials)

Government of Karnataka

Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Limited

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Nagarabhivriddhi Bhavan, # 22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar, 2nd Stage, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Bengaluru-560 038,
Website: www.kuidfc.com **e-mail:** info@kuidfc.com
Ph: 080-25196100/124 FAX : 080-25196110

No. KUIDFC/Admn/AM//HoV/CR-254/2026-27 Date: 19.05. 2026

Short-term e-Tender Notification-Call-2

KUIDFC Bengaluru invites tenders from the authorized service providers for Hiring of Light Commercial Passenger Vehicles (Yellow Board) on monthly basis for a period of 2 years. The tender document will be available on e-Procurement portal of GoK **(i.e., https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in)** from **22.05.2026 to 06.06.2026 up to 17.30 hrs.** The bidders can upload the proposals only through e-Procurement portal. For any further notification please refer e-Procurement portal.

Sd/-
General Manager (Admn)

DIPR/CP/763/Zen/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2026-27/998 DATE: 20/05/2026

Short term E-Tender /Re-Tender Notification (Call-1 & Call-2)

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise Short term e-Tender/Re-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 1 work under head of account 4059-Construction of Judicial buildings, 2 works under head of account 5054-KRDCL, 1 work under head of account 4059-Construction of PWD Department buildings. Totally 4 No. of works, Amount put to tender is Minimum of Rs. 160.00 and Maximum of Rs. 280.00 Lakhs.

Calendar of events:

1)Pre-bid meeting date: 04-06-2026 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2) Last date for queries & clarifications : 06-06-2026 up to 5.30 PM 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 08-06-2026 up to 5.00 PM 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 10-06-2026 at 4.30 PM 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids" 6)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-287/KSMCA/2026-27

Government of Karnataka

GULBARGA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, KALABURAGI

(Autonomous Institution of Govt. of Karnataka)
E-mail:directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com Phone No 08472-260252

No. GIMS/KLB/TENDER/DIET/CR/14/2026-27/411 Date:20-05-2026

:: TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement) ::

Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi invites tender for eligible bidders in bid system (Techno-commercial Bid & Financial Bid) in e-procurement 2.0 mode for Providing the **"Dietary Services" at Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital Kalaburagi.** Details are available in the site: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Last date and time for upload of e-tender in E-procurement platform as follows.

1) Commencement of download of e-Tender Form from website-https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in **No. GIMS/KLB/TENDER/DIET/CR/14/2026-27, Date:20/05/2026, DME/2026-27/SE0746.** 2) Last Date for Queries: **01-06-2026 at 17:00 pm**, 3) Pre-bid Meeting: **04-06-2026 at 12:30 pm,** 4) Last Date for Uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform on or before: **20-06-2026 at 4.30 pm**, 5) Opening of Techno-Commercial Bid: **22-06-2026 at 05:00 pm** 6) Opening of Tenders Financial bid: **23-06-2026 at 11:30 am**, 7) Tender amount: **Rs. 2,98,79,640=00**, 8) EMD: **Rs. 4,48,195=00**, 9) Contact Details: Director, GIMS Kalaburagi veresh Nagar sedam road Kalaburagi 585105. Office Email: directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com Land Line:08472-260252, Cell:+91 9482093568, Tender Section Email: gimstenderklb22@gmail.com, Cell:+91 9972688602

Sd/- Director,
Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/151/KSMC&A/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division Ballari

Email: ee_pwdbellary@yahoo.com Telephone No: 08392 -266123

No: EE/PWD/BD/TS-5/2026-27/910 Dated :18-05-2026

Short term Tender Notification (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division, Ballari invites the tenders for the works detailed in the table from the eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department, through KPP- portal. Two cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded through the web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours.**TABLE**

Sl No	Details of Works	Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakhs)
1)	PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT35935	300.00
2)	PWD/2026-27/BR/WORK_INDENT35979	105.00

Note : Any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions, tenderers can view in KPP_Procurement Portal.

1)Last dates for queries (through KPP –portal): **22-05-2026 upto 12.00 Hours**
2)Last date for submission of tenders through KPP -portal: **29-05-2026 upto 16.00 Hours**
3)Date and time of opening of Technical Bids: **30-05-2026 at 16.30 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Ballari.

DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/161

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